



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HUEY P. LONG

PART 5 OF 7

FILE NUMBER: 62-32509
SECTIONS: 8 THRU 10

62-32509

Section

8

Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

July 13, 1939

Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM TO MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Attached hereto is an anonymous letter dated June 28,
1939, which was mailed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Please take such action as you may deem the above-mentioned
communication warrants.

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney

8/16/39

Sec. 71-B.

ACH

RECORDED

INDEXED

DECLERKED
DATE
13

62-32507-211
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 16 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Eden Hardie, Jr.
U.S. District Attorney
Post Office Bldg
New Orleans, La.

Dear Citizen:-

Congratulations on your desire to investigate some of the THIEVERY of GOVERNMENT FUNDS on PMA and WPA projects in Louisiana.

I trust as an old timer when the U.S. Grand Jury started something like this they generally went to the BAT, and some one always had several HOME RUNS to the Penn. I hope you gentlemen revive the confidence in the American People by bringing account some of those well thought of gentlemen that have become lower than the common Highway Thief.

Right in our midst, we have some very startling facts to face, BUT, I hope that the exposure of Dr Smith, which is only a little part of the THIEVERY will not grant the U.S. Grand Jury the opportunity to SMOK SCRAM the other larger offenses.

Take the CHARITY HOSPITAL, where the Board is falling Head of Heels to accept that ABORTION of ABORTION on the American Public.

Do you know that in the plumbing and other piping parts of that building that never has a test, I mean an actual test of Water in Water Pipes and Steam and other things been tested actually in those pipes.

Do you know that on NON-COMPETITIVE products that Dr Bel's assistant has been accustomed to say, to a Business house, "WHAT IS YOUR PRICE?" and when told would say what is 15% of that cost, and when told would say, well Mr Blank, you go ahead, and when you give me that amount 15% in Cash, I will approve your bill.

And do you know that these ADD-DUCTS or DE-DUCTS are split among the whole board, take that purchasing Agent, Dumaine, and half negro put him to the test, feed him "ICE CREAM AND CAKE", like Chief Grouch says he feeds the criminals to get a confession, and I think that you can make that BIRD flap his wings.

Do you know that Dr Bel and duAudory are the ACT-PARTICIPANTS in the Craft.

But, don't leave the Jews out, like Shushan and Hart and Weiss, they get theirs.

I will tell you something hot, yet, the New PMA project in Jefferson Parish, Gretna, La. the School Board split \$ 32,000.00 on the sites that they offer as their part of the PMA grant. And here is how it was done, taking up property for this Project, a piece of property was bought, the owner said he wanted \$ 2,000.00 they took an option for \$ 2,500.00 and paid cash down of \$ 500.00, and when it was taken in the deal for the School it was listed as \$ 12,500.00 and many more were handled the same way. Of course they will say that they did not take PMA Money but they did DEFRAUD the PMA in the land values as their part of the project. And Justice Archie R. ins and his family was in on this.

Boys you have a large job before you, I hope that they give you Ice Water and Air-Conditioning rooms to work in, because things on your table will sure heat up the atmosphere of your room.

Now that we have an opportunity, lets clean HOUSE.

I would give you my name and address but if I did, my life would not be worth the cost of having a linen suit cleaned.

I see Mayor Maestri paid the New Gov. a visit with the KING of Lottery and GAMBLING OPERATION IN NEW ORLEANS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 4

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2

JUL 7 10 20 AM '39

RECEIVED TAMP
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DON'T LET VIOSCA SINE TRACK YOU . YOU KNOW HE WASH
HARTBLE TO O.K. HIM FOR THE JUDGEHIP AND ROOSEVELT
HAS AGREE THAT NONE SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THAT
EX- HOSTIVOTE PIER NOW MAYOR WASTREL POTSHIS O.K.
A FINE KETTLE OF FISH THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BECOME
HITCHED TO. PIRERS, THIEVES AND DEGENERATES NO WOMER
ROOSEVELT LOOKS LIKE A THIEF HIMSELF.
PRESIDENT WILSON ONCE SAID: " OUR CIVILIZATION CAN'T
IMPROVE MATERIALLY UNLESS WE IMPROVE FIRST SPIRITUALLY



The Home Insurance Company

OFFICES IN HYDE BUILDING

INSURES EVERYTHING INSURABLE, KEEPS IT INSURED

PLACE YOUR ORDER. HAVE YOUR RISKS UNDERWRITTEN BY US

THERE ARE TWO CLASSES: ONE PROTECTS LIFE AND BUSINESS INTERESTS BEFORE ACCIDENTS OCCUR; THE OTHER NURSES REGRETS AND LOSSES AFTERWARDS

Winnfield, Louisiana 7-29-39.

Mr. Frank Murphy, Atty. Gen., U. S.,
New Orleans, La.
Dear Mr. Murphy:-

I had a conference on yesterday with Mr. R. P. Parker, Crowville, Franklin Parish, La. Mr. Parker is a leading citizen, thoroughly reliable, well posted, and probably knows more of the inside workings of the "machine" than any man in his parish. He is heartily in favor of apprehending and sending to prison all of malefactors, but he has little if any confidence in the state courts doing any more than the force of public opinion forces them to do. He recounted numerous violations of the law, politicalization of the relief organizations, the purchase of votes in congressional election in 1938, the padding of the payrolls with names just before the election, and after election dropping them etc.

I asked his permission to direct your attention to the matter. He assured me it met with his hearty approval, and that he would be very glad to furnish all the evidence in his possession to an investigator, if only one should be sent to him.

The "machine" extends its ramifications into the every parish in the state. Political "machines" are identical wherever they may exist, perpetuate themselves and rob the tax payer to the uttermost limit. If they are to be broken up, the federal government must do it. The states are not going to do it.

There is plenty that can be uncovered in every parish in the state, if a good sleuth is put on the job. It will require some time and not a little expense. If democratic government is to continue, and it is, these "machines" that plunder and steal "to the last drop" must be destroyed.

The relief organizations in Louisiana are honeycombed with fraud, and are employed also as recruiting stations for the perpetuation of present conditions, intolerable as they are.

Yours truly,

B. W. Bailey
B. W. Bailey.

8/16/39 - J. L.
N.C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM TWC



Hon. Mr. Murphy

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.



United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:GVC

Time: 10:05 a.m.

August 3, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On
4
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000
1001
1002
1003
1004
1005
1006
1007
1008
1009
1010
1011
1012
1013
1014
1015
1016
1017
1018
1019
1020
1021
1022
1023
1024
1025
1026
1027
1028
1029
1030
1031
1032
1033
1034
1035
1036
1037
1038
1039
1040
1041
1042
1043
1044
1045
1046
1047
1048
1049
1050
1051
1052
1053
1054
1055
1056
1057
1058
1059
1060
1061
1062
1063
1064
1065
1066
1067
1068
1069
1070
1071
1072
1073
1074
1075
1076
1077
1078
1079
1080
1081
1082
1083
1084
1085
1086
1087
1088
1089
1090
1091
1092
1093
1094
1095
1096
1097
1098
1099
1100
1101
1102
1103
1104
1105
1106
1107
1108
1109
1110
1111
1112
1113
1114
1115
1116
1117
1118
1119
1120
1121
1122
1123
1124
1125
1126
1127
1128
1129
1130
1131
1132
1133
1134
1135
1136
1137
1138
1139
1140
1141
1142
1143
1144
1145
1146
1147
1148
1149
1150
1151
1152
1153
1154
1155
1156
1157
1158
1159
1160
1161
1162
1163
1164
1165
1166
1167
1168
1169
1170
1171
1172
1173
1174
1175
1176
1177
1178
1179
1180
1181
1182
1183
1184
1185
1186
1187
1188
1189
1190
1191
1192
1193
1194
1195
1196
1197
1198
1199
1200
1201
1202
1203
1204

JUL 3 1939

Harry Jacobs, Levee Board Engineer 1937-38, used WPA labor and Louisiana Highway trucks to haul sand to elevate his property, about 14 months work, in St. Bernard Parish. WPA fences were bought for state park in St. Tammany Parish. Material was hauled and deposited on state park grounds, subsequently Leche and Rankin appropriated enough of this fencing to fence in a large area of their property. Leche used highway tractors, trucks and WPA labor to build bridges on his property in 1938-39. Rankin used WPA labor to build his fences and planted trees dug up from Salmen Lumber Co.'s land which adjoins his property near state park.

The Hero family in Plaquemines parish have spent thousands of dollars improving and ditching their own property. This work has been going on for three years. WPA

Leche caused to be distributed to families on the Atchafalaya River carloads of gravel in exchange for subscriptions to the Progress. Every family between Melville and Simmsport were given gravel to build roads on their private property by orders of Leche to Harmus Zeringue who lives at Melville and distributed this gravel. Leche moved from New Orleans a barber and fitted him up with a house near his place to shave he and Bushan. This man wears a State Board of Health badge.

The State Board of Health has employed in New Orleans a lot of gamblers who pose as health inspectors (who are secret service men) for the administration. They have such gangs in every parish in the State where thousands of dollars of State money goes to pay these burglars. Austin Fontenot of Opelousas, Louisiana, is the instructor for men so employed. Some of these gamblers leave the State of Louisiana and follow the races up North for four to six months and continue to draw their pay as Board of Health inspectors.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Leche has received thousands of dollars to release convicts from the State penitentiary. One convict told this informant that he was released by his relatives paying \$500.00 to Leche's go-betweens in the month of May, 1939.

The informant would like to know and the public at large what became of all the oil lands donated to the Charity Hospital from the estate of Wisner and Dresser. From all accounts, a good many oil wells producing on this property, wells owned by the Texas Oil Company, are not paying any royalties. If so, who has this money? The Texas Oil Company has been drilling wells on this property back of Lafitte, south to the Gulf. What has become of all of the oil lands formerly owned by the State, which were sold to whitewash organizations in the ranks of the State officials from Noe down to the present day?

2

The City of New Orleans is buying asphalt that is being mined in Georgia. Two of the men interested in this concern are connected with the City administration and a third by the name of Caldwell living in Atlanta or Birmingham (not related to the local Caldwells). This asphalt is being sold to Craven & Land by these individuals at a handsome profit. If Hampton Reynolds and Crutcher were investigated and these shipments traced to origin and the prices ascertained for this product at origin and the price New Orleans is paying for it, you would readily see the extent of the graft.

In 1937 Leche painted the names off eight State trucks and put his name on side of trucks to haul bricks from Charity Hospital site to his home in Covington. Sushan did the same thing with Orleans levee Board trucks to haul bricks from Charity Hospital to his home near Covington. These bricks were demolished with WPA labor. Leche also used WPA labor to haul these bricks to his home site. Leche used WPA labor for landscaping building site.

Charity Hospital foundation should have had about 9000 piles or better. A good many of these piles, or 7000 of such piles, should have been driven sixty feet into the ground but the majority of them driven at night were driven about 30 feet and cut off, with the approval of the architects inspector who is the worst crook in the State of Louisiana. In some instances the cut-offs were long enough to be used as piling. A lot of these facts can be substantiated by getting in touch with Mr. E. A. Cotton, Walnut 1760-W, New Orleans, who was the rivet inspector on the job and refused to be bribed.

The writer hopes that you as an agent of your department will put public duty and honesty above all selfish desires and check into these various leads which are bona fide and bring the guilty to account for their deeds of crookedness and distrust.

In the informant's opinion the Federal Government is a dam sight more rotten than the state government, and we hope that this investigation will bring out some future men who are honest and not traitors to their obligations. I am three score and ten years and will later on disclose my identity when the above disclosures have been acted upon. I have based the latter remarks on the investigations made by Viosca, the Federal attorney, when ~~he~~ he threw out Chester Martin's case against the State and (Federal) WPA when he made the remark that there was nothing to it. Viosca is one of the State's gang who could not make a living until he was given this position by the Federal Government. He is no more fit to be entrusted with these duties any more than Leche or any other local politician. The whole United States knows that this investigation and trial is taking place between a bunch of thieves where one-half is trying the other half, and the most stupid of human beings cannot guess the results unless, as I have stated above, some of you fellows who have the opportunity keep this democracy intact and stand out as our forefathers did. However, if the men who have been indicted or implicated were found guilty and punished and proper means taken at the next election to see that the votes are not substituted, then the old gang would not drift back into office. With a fair account of things their getting back into office would be an impossibility

8

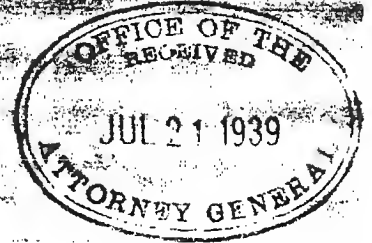
because these scandals have brought out an interest in State affairs
to make the least interested individual want to straighten out the
destinies of our State.

CEILING FANS
CULATING ICE WATER

A. P. GARDNER
MANAGER



Hotel
Gardner
SHREVEPORT, LA.



Surfer

after glucose ran 2,500,000 lbs
had all from Sexton Lane in Pasadena
in partnership with state officials
arch Kaynes ran 16,000 lbs daily for
months in Pasadena (hot air) when the
allowable was 300 lbs

these operations made possible account
spitting with state officials, Rankin

Cause investigation of records of
Kee Management Co. N.Y. might
disclose significant purchase of
its stock at the time of corporate
on bonds being paid in by N.Y. NO
It looks now that all frauds will be
exposed

8/16/39
Set. N. O.
ACK

For Frank Murphy
att'y general
Washington DC

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32509-209
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WFO

Hon. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Washington, D. C.



//

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

21456

JUL 23 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

2m

RECORDED

INDEXED

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-23-39 5-02 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

62-32509-208

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 25 1939

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHRISTENBERRY, FORMER SECRETARY TO HUEY P. LONG AND BROTHER OF

ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY HERBERT CHRISTENBERRY AT NEW ORLEANS,

APPOINTED SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR EARL K. LONG, EFFECTIVE TOMORROW.

A. B. PATTERSON, HEAD OF NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SERVICE, INC., OFFERED

POSITION PRESIDENT OF NEW ORLEANS DOCK BOARD, FROM WHICH POSITION

SEYMOUR WEISS RESIGNED JULY TWENTY FIRST. DR. CLARENCE LORIO PRESENTLY

UNDER INDICTMENT IN STATE COURT RESIGNED FROM POSITION PRESIDENT

LOUISIANA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY AND DR. D. B. BARBER, FORMER VICE

PRESIDENT, APPOINTED PRESIDENT. GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS IN NEW ORLEANS

REPORTED CLOSING, BUT REASON FOR THIS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN. W. D. ADAMS,

FORMER HEAD OF IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, APPOINTED

CHIEF OF POLICE AT BATON ROUGE LATE YESTERDAY.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC SRN

6:30 pm Condition, Louisiana

WALL

16

Mr. Frank Murphy.
U.S. Attorney General of the
United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr Murphy:-

On May the 29th., you were in New Orleans in company with Mr J. Edgar Hoover, the Great ACE of Criminal Detectors.

You on that occasion spoke to the newspaper men as to the cure for the evils of Democracy.

On May the 30th., the N.O. Daily States carried an editorial that hit the spot of the common people of this State and the U.S.

Since that time with credit to the same paper and its morning associate the Times-Picayune there has been uncovered a small part of the crime that is carried on by the HIGHER-UPS in this state that is the Politician and the business people and merchants as well as the people interested in good clean government while they look with disgust on the manner of operation they fear the personal results if THEY DARED TO OPEN THEIR MOUTHS

It would seem that now the U.S. Departments are in on this investigation, BUT..... will it be another waste of money? Some years ago the Gov'mt, while you were in Michigan as their Governor, made a minute investigation on some of the vice and corruption in this state, BUT what did it amount to --- one Jos Fisher went to Atlanta for a short while, a small fry.... BUT .. what... became of those others that were more guilty?

Nelson Bros, Abe Shushan, Semour Weiss and other thaty were not brought to light..... You should well know for the records are in Washington under the Title:- " THE SECOND LOUISIANA PURCHASE" and who was the instigator of this greater crime,..... Mr Roosevelt. For their Congressmen's and Senators vote on his New Deal Schemes he had that weakling of a Dist Atty non-pross the criminal charges but the civil charges (change of money) was collected. You know Jesus Christ drove the money changers out of the TEMPLE, would it not be interesting to have this great act re-enacted.

Now, the people are now thinking and expressing the though that you will get ORDERS to soft petal the investigation now being sarried on by the several departments.

However you must be congratulated on your first brave act; of refusing to hand over to the State District Attorneys your files on the charges that you have against these criminal much worste that any Dillinger, Capone or Karpis.

Your Distrikt Attorney is first a weakling of the first water, and surrounding him are a crew of appointments at the behest of one BOB MAESTRI who to-day and since this investigation have been taking such information that they can get in their official connection and are passing it on to the HIGHER-UPS like Maestri and his gang of WHITE COLLAR THUGS. Therefore if you ever expect to reach a reasonable point of actually doing things with these criminals you had better stop the leaks out of your New Orleans District Attorney's office .

Talking about "DE-DUCTS" Mr Tom Hill the former collector perhaps don't know became tired of collections and not getting his so he last year made a raid on that Safety Deposit Box, and is reported to have taken about \$ 350,000.00 and after being away for several weeks returned as told the gang, Maestri and Leche and Weiss that he was there what the hell were they going to do, and dared them to fail to pay his salary check of \$1,000. 00 per month. Tom Hill told them then that he had a record of everything and that if they "BUMPED HIM OFF" that a certain person would sell to the papers the entire facts that would not look good in PRINT.

Talk about FWA and WPA investigations, why not look into the painting of the Maestri property on Orleans Ave and the Cave New Home and the Pratt new home all have been guilty and by the way the Semour Weiss Dairy at Paridis, La. all constructed on WPA material and labor.

Shushan and Weiss I hope have not bought you and the others over they are likewise users of FWA and WPA material and workmen.

21457

OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
JUN 13 1939

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-31509-20
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TALENT'S COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

8/14/3
Sec.
H.C.
ACE

13

Talk about investigations, that congressional election in the 6th district was the plainest STEAL, they stuffed the ballot boxes, and would not let anyone see the count, in fact many votes were counted just in the basement was made and that was all but at that time MR ROOSEVELT WAS CONSUMATING THE 2nd LOUISIANA PURCHASE AND LECHE WAS HIS MOUTHPIECE. 1458

YOU SPOKE OF VICE, GAMBLING AND CRIME IN THE PARTISAN POLITICS.... WELL did you know WHY.... Mr Guerre chief of the State Police insisted that his criminal Murphy Roden (Webster Dictionary says this word means "RAT") be the one to bring back Dr Smith, well here is the facts.... they knew that the Air-Ship only held four people, and that Dr Smith's wife would be brought back in their AUTO... and WHY.... because RODEN (RAT) intended to return with Smith and in the trip up in the Air he RAT *RODEN would abuse and curse Smith and it would result in Smith being thrown over board and then claim that Dr Smith leaped from the plane. The gang fear Smith talking, and right now Smith knows that his life is surer in JAIL than on the streets of any town of Louisiana.

RODEN (RAT) and Messini now the Chief of the Dock Board Police killed Huey for the gang and they would not stop at anything where they could stop a wagging tongue

WILL THIS BE ANOTHER OR 3rd. PURCHASE OF LOUISIANA, YOU KNOW THESE UNDER* WORLD CHARACTER LIKE MAESTRI THE CHIEF CONTACT MAN OF JIM FARLEY AND ROOSEVELT WILL STOP AT NOTHING.

THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE THE MAKING OR BREAKING OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCARTIC PARTY IN 1940.

Two years ago when the FBI was on the heel of the DOPE RING and would have had to arrest Mayor Maestri, why was the whole FBI crew called off ?
Pressure from Washington.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 22 1939

TELETYPE

DECODED COPY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lunt
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW ORLEANS, LA.

JULY 22, 1939

710 PM TM

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. FEDERAL GRAND JURY
NEW ORLEANS RECESSED UNTIL MONDAY WHEN THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO HEAR
TESTIMONY RELATIVE JAMES MONROE SMITH BOND TRANSACTIONS AND TESTIMONY
IN HOT OIL INVESTIGATION. O JOHN ROGGE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON TODAY
SCHEDULED RETURN NEW ORLEANS ON THE TWENTYSEVENTH. HILLERY J GAUDIN
ASSISTANT U S ATTORNEY NEW ORLEANS HAS AGREED TO RESIGN. SEYMOUR
WEISS HAS RESIGNED FROM PUBLIC OFFICES HELD.

B. E. SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC JPO

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32509-207X3
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 25 1939
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
TAMM
TWO

July 12, 1939

Chas. Creditors New Orleans

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

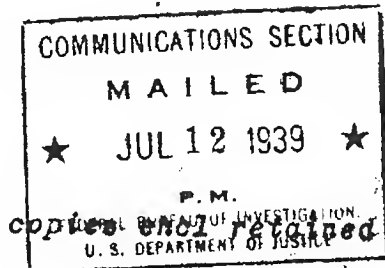
I am transmitting herewith copies of an anonymous letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of June 12, 1939, from Bayouport, Louisiana, for reference to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

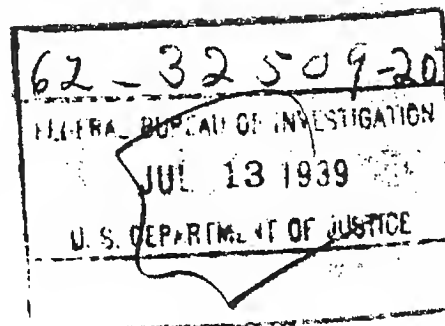
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure



RECORDED



TO THE HONORABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON D. C.
MR. *Harold* MURPHY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BEFORE ME the undersigned authority personally came and appeared ; *Miss Agnes E. Lewis & Annie E. Lewis*
Who after being first duly sworn deposed and said
That the Heirs of the Succession of Mr. & Mrs John B. Lewis have been penalized pauperized and destituted by the corrupt acts the several Officials acting as Agents for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration tripple AAA ; Operating illegally and fraudulently in cooperation with the County Agent W.E. Williams et als of Iberia Parish and the Local Committees composed of personally adversely interested enierical parties Howard J. Olivier of the 2nd Ward et als and several aggressive itinerant persons of Iberia Parish who have invaded the private fields of the Private Estate of the Heirs of the Succession of the said Mr. & Mrs John B. Lewis late bone fide registered Owners in joint Community of acquets and gains of the Plantation Ave Mariea commonly known as the John B. Lewis being situated in the Parish of Iberia State of Louisiana

Depnent further deposed and said that there has been repeated acts of violence and deprivations committed on said Par which has been illegally and unlawfully invaded by discriminating unjustly by virtue of the Tripple AAA and its duly authorized Ag aforssaid and in which special mention is made of one F. W. Spencer of lawful age and a resident of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and being designated as the Administrative Agent at the L.S.U. of the who with one *J. W. Bateman* Marcel J. Voorhies of the Sugar District of Louisiana have deliberately systematically wilfully feloniously knowingly a intentionally misused the name of the Heirs of the said Estate and name of the Succession of Mr. & Mrs John B. Lewis No. 2918 & 2525 & purported fraud estate 3487 of Miss Alberta Lewis with intent to d and have defrauded the " TESTATE ESTATE & SUCCESSIONs # 2918 - " of which the Beneficery Heirs and joint coowners are the sole Credit And that there has been malaadministration of Federal Government Cane benefit Funds and a demand is made for a probe and investigation of fraud and illegal acts committed by said persons et als disguised and which has been a monopoly of trade in violation of the Anti Tr All against the Intent of the AAA & Other Federal and State Laws of United States of America.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
11th day of July, 1934

Miss Annie E. Lewis
Miss Agnes E. Lewis

Lt. SCOTT CAMP N

Department of Louisiana

United Spanish War Veterans

BATON ROUGE, LA.

Miss Agnes E. Lewis
New Orleans La
to Gen Delivery

Return Receipt Requested
Fee Paid

REGISTERED

478

Department of Justice
to Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Washington D

New Orleans, La.

July 14, 1939.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: MONTE E. HART; et al; MAIL FRAUD

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For the past two days I have been trying to obtain some coherent, concise details relating to the mail fraud case which U. S. Attorney VIOSCA believes exists against the above named individuals and which he considers the most important case to have indicted and prosecuted at this time, as mentioned in my teletypes.

It was almost an impossible task, since there have been no reports submitted as such, the various Assistant U. S. Attorneys have conducted inquiries relative to the matter, as have agents of the Internal Revenue Service and various persons have testified before the Grand Jury, the transcript of testimony not having been completely written up. It was not possible to get the details from any one individual, since none of this information or evidence had been correlated and existed principally in the minds of the various officials rather than in writing.

After some insistence on my part, MR. VIOSCA had the Internal Revenue agents submit a summary of all of the work they did on this case, and also submit to MR. VIOSCA copies of the statements they had taken from those defendants and prospective witnesses in connection with this matter that they have interviewed. I secured copies of these statements and I also secured the transcripts of the testimony which was already written up concerning the testimony of some of these people before the Grand Jury, and also had Special Agent WEEKS in addition to myself, interview the various Assistant U. S. Attorneys to try to secure as many facts as possible concerning this case.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Based upon all this conglomeration of information, the last of which we did not succeed in obtaining until 6:30 tonight, we have attempted to prepare a summary report, as closely as possible to the

ORIGINAL FILED IN 5

20

Page 2 - Director

July 14, 1939

that which we would prepare based upon our own investigations, in an effort to give you as nearly as we can determine from these sources aforementioned the details of the alleged scheme to defraud, the use of the mails, the substance of the indictment proposed to be returned by U. S. Attorney VIOSCA, the names of the apparently necessary witnesses, the apparent substance of their testimony, together with a summary of the information apparently furnished by the subjects at the time they were interviewed by agents of the Internal Revenue Service.

It should be noted that our Bureau did not conduct any investigation whatsoever concerning this matter. It will be seen from the summary that there are a number of instances wherein the identity and details of the testimony of necessary witnesses are not known. It is entirely possible and probable that there are other necessary and important witnesses who should be listed as witnesses, however, the identity of such persons is not known to us, and is not included in any of the written matter obtained by us or in any of the oral information furnished us.

In addition to the Bureau's copies of the summary report submitted in this matter by Agent WEEKS, I am enclosing for your information herewith the following:

- 1 - Copy of a report from the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service dated July 14, 1939, to the U. S. Attorney, summarizing his investigation.
- 2 - Copy of a proposed rough draft form indictment which U. S. Attorney VIOSCA expects to have returned in this case by the Federal Grand Jury.
- 3 - Copy of a memorandum of U. S. Attorney VIOSCA dated July 13, 1939, from Acting Special Agent in Charge FRANK W. LOHN of the Internal Revenue Service.
- 4 - Copy of a statement obtained by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service from M. E. HART dated April 14, 1939.
- 5 - Copy of a statement obtained by Internal Revenue agents from M. E. HART dated July 12, 1939.

21

July 14, 1939.

8 - Copy of a statement obtained from JOHN EMORY ADAMS by Internal Revenue agents dated July 12, 1939.

9 - Copy of a statement obtained from LEON G. WILKS by Internal Revenue agents dated July 13, 1939.

Some of the statements described above contain information and refer to income tax matters and other matters not involved in this mail fraud case, however, they are being submitted for your information to show the complete details obtained from these persons. These are the only copies of statements obtained by the Internal Revenue Agents which are in my possession.

I am not sending you the transcript of the Grand Jury testimony given by the persons who testified before that body relative to this mail fraud scheme. In the first place, only a portion of this testimony has been written up, therefore, I cannot furnish a complete testimony of all witnesses. Secondly, the testimony which has been written up has been analyzed and pertinent substance included in the summary report, also I do not believe it safe to send such testimony unless it is registered, since the Grand Jury has not returned any indictments as yet and it is too late to register it to night. If you desire this testimony I will be glad to furnish it after all transcripts have been completed and you request same.

Some of the information furnished in the summary report as set out under the names of various witnesses was obtained from a perusal of this Grand Jury testimony, since written statements allegedly made by those persons were not available to us. However, the summary report does not show in any manner that the Grand Jury testimony was available to us or that the same was summarized or included in the report in any manner.

I trust that this will give you a picture of this case and the probable witnesses available to prove the mail fraud offense. Your authority is requested for me to furnish a copy of the summary report of Agent WILKS to the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans for his information and assistance in connection with this matter, since this summary report is, to my knowledge, the only written report of any kind or description which even attempts to summarize the whole situation and set out the witnesses necessary to prove

22

Page 4 - Director

July 14, 1954.

same and what they may testify to.

Sincerely yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

BES:WH
36-38

1308 Masonic Temple Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana

August 1, 1939

Honorable Rene Viosca,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Viosca:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concerning

For your information and such attention as you deem appropriate, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a memorandum which is unsigned, but which was prepared by an attorney in New Orleans whose name is unknown to me, dealing with the law concerning the issuance of Orleans Levee Board bonds. This memorandum was given to me in confidence by Mr. Clark Salmon, Managing Editor of the Item-Tribune newspapers, who received same from an attorney whose name he did not disclose.

It was Mr. Salmon's thought that we might be interested in this information in connection with any investigation which may be or is being conducted concerning subject matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure
BES:sh
#62-978
cc Bureau - Enclosure

INDEXED

The Sunday edition of the Picayune carries a copy of the "offer" of Newman Harris to the Levee board to undertake the refunding work. The Levee Board "accepted" the offer, as will be noted at the bottom of the offer. If the "acceptance" of the offer constituted the "resolution" as required by law, was this "resolution" submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General for their approval, as required by law? If the amount of fees was indefinite, was not this in itself a violation of law in that the Act referred to in the attached memorandum requires that the compensation be "designated" by the Governor and the Attorney General after a full explanation of the reason for the employment of special counsel or for rendering "special services"?

The offer of Newman Harris should be carefully read and studied in relation to the attached memorandum. But note the word "employment" in that offer, the engagement to be for special services.

Act 125 of 1912 as amended by Act No. 341 of 1938 specifically provides that no special attorney or counsel shall be employed by political sub-divisions of the State, including the Orleans Levee Board with additional compensation therefrom, but said Board or political sub-division may employ special attorneys or special counsel "in the event it should be necessary to protect the public's interest..... on the joint written approval of the Governor and Attorney General of the State (and said Boards or political sub-divisions may) pay only such compensation as the Governor and Attorney General may designate in said written approval, the said approval to be given only on their discretion of the application of said Board..... by resolution thereof setting forth fully the reasons for the proposed retention or employment of such special attorneys or counsel and the amount of the proposed compensation, provided the Governor and the Attorney General shall not ratify or approve any action of such Board in employing any special attorneys or counsel or paying any compensation for special services rendered, unless all formalities as provided by this Act as to resolutions, etc., have been complied with.

The Attorney General of Louisiana under date of October 19th, 1934, rendered an opinion that the Parish of Livingston (a political sub-division of this State) has no authority to employ a person who is not an attorney at law to render legal services necessary to the refunding of certain bonded indebtedness of that Parish, setting forth his reasons as follows:

1. Act 208 of 1932 prohibits anyone who is not a natural person, duly and regularly licensed and admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of this State, from practicing law; and the procedure necessary for refunding bonds would be practicing law within the definition of the practice of law contained in that Act.

"2. Under Sections 2 and 3 of Act 125 of 1912, the Police Jury may not employ special counsel until it is made to appear by a resolution of the Police Jury that there is a real necessity for such employment, the resolution stating fully the reasons for such action and the compensation to be paid, and to be spread upon the minutes and published in the official journal; and until the Police Jury has obtained the joint written approval of the Governor and the Attorney General, who shall fix the compensation to be paid."

This act was upheld by the Court of Appeal of the Parish of Orleans, Judge McCaleb speaking, in the case of an insurance agent who sought to adjust an insurance claim under a contract for such special services to be rendered to the beneficiary of an insurance policy. The Act is known as the Act defining the practice of law. "It specifically prohibits the solicitation of legal business either for the benefit of the solicitor or for an attorney or attorneys".

"7410. Violations of act by attorneys and members of boards—penalty.— The District attorneys who shall refuse or wilfully fail to perform the duties required of them by this act or wilfully fail to render faithful and efficient services in such regard shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance and gross misconduct and removal from office in the manner prescribed by law, and the members of police juries, parish school boards, and state boards or commissions aforesaid, who shall violate any of the provisions of this act, and any attorney or counsellor who shall knowingly accept such prohibited employment or compensation shall be deemed guilty as principals of a misdemeanor and on conviction sentenced to pay a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), and imprisoned for not less than ten (10) nor more than ninety (90) days and in addition thereto the members of such boards or commissions shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance and removed from office in the manner prescribed by law, if elected by the people, and by the governor or other prescribed authority, if appointed. (Acts 1912, No. 125, 4)".

(While levee boards are not specifically included in this Section, unquestionably the word "aforesaid", as it appears in the Section embraces the wording "including levee boards" as the same appears specifically in Section 1, quoted in part above.)

"7411. Special services for officers by attorney general.— The governor may in his discretion require and direct the attorney general to render any police jury, parish school board, or state board any special services in any matter and when deemed necessary in the case of a state board or commission to assume full charge and control of all legal proceedings relating to such matter. (Act 1912, No. 125, 5.)"

(Note, the same conclusion set forth in the foot-note on the section quoted doubtless applies to this section of the Act. From the last quoted section it may be observed readily that the Governor may direct the Attorney General to render to any of the boards named in the Act "any special services in any matter", and to go farther and "assume full charge and control of all legal proceedings relating to such matter". The attorney general in the opinion above cited specifically denoted all refunding proceedings of political sub-divisions as "legal proceedings", which are prohibited from being handled by any one other than attorneys at law. The Levee Board had and has regularly paid attorneys. Where were these attorneys and what services did they perform in the refunding "to protect the public interest"?)

The following questions are pertinent to the refunding of the Orleans Levee Board, a discussion of which has appeared in the local papers:

1. Who are the regularly employed legal counsel of the Orleans Levee Board?
2. What special counsel, if any, were employed by the Orleans Levee Board?
3. Was special counsel compensated over and above the fee paid Newman-Harris and Company and in what sum?
4. If Newman-Harris agreed to pay special counsel out of their fee who were and are their counsel and how much were they paid?
5. Was a formal resolution employing Newman-Harris and/or special counsel passed by the Orleans Levee Board and approved by the Governor and Attorney General as required by law?
6. Did the State Bond and Tax Board approve the refunding?
7. Assuming that the State Bond and Tax Board did approve the refunding, was a copy of the refunding resolution submitted to the State Bond and Tax Board pursuant to their practice or requirement set up by that Board since its inception?
8. If the Levee Board submitted its refunding plan to the State Bond and Tax Board in 1936, both ex-governor Leche and Governor Long then were members of that Board and were required by law to approve or disapprove the refunding plan. How now can either of them say they "don't know anything about it"?
9. If the resolution employing "special counsel" or for the employment of anyone to render "special services" was not submitted to the Governor (Leche at the time) and the Attorney General (Porterie at the time) was not the afore-cited Act (125 of 1918) violated by ignoring its provisions and requirements?
10. If the resolution for employing special counsel or for rendering

"special services" was submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General, did those officials set the fees at \$449,000.00? Under the Act (125 of 1912) they are required to "designate the amount of compensation to be paid."

RE 21455

Baton Rouge

Mr. Frank Murphy
Hon. Atty. General
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir

July 4th 1939

62-32509-207

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 2 1939

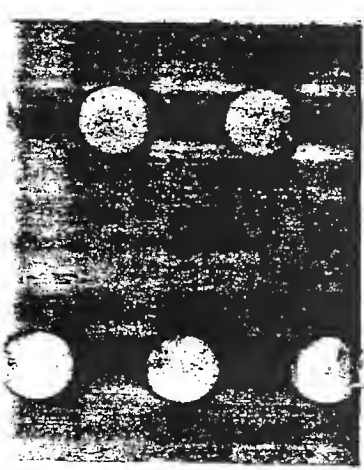
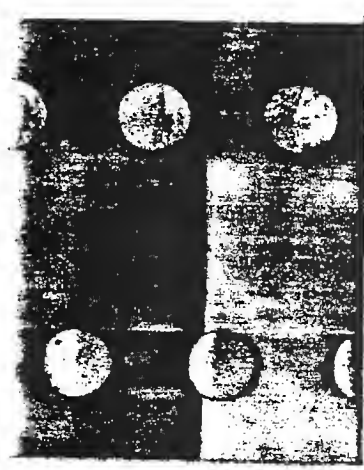
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED

My sister & myself are enclosing an Affidavit subscribed to you signed by us both in which we ask your personal & prompt attention in a matter of which we are suffering an injustice through no fault of our own which is before you in the name of the United States Agricultural Adjustment Act Crop Control A.A.A. in which the County of St. Charles Parish Louisiana is named as defendant.

Very truly yours,
Attorney General W. J. Clegg

of the L. A. [unclear]
of Baton Rouge
La. have combined
+ are acting under the
authority of the 16th
Judicial District Court
of New Orleans who
has conspired with
an imprisoned slave
who has been dismissed
is acting without
authority with intent
to defraud legal
forced labor of
their rights + who
have used unethical
practices to accomplish
these ends + have
maladministered
government + cause
a case cause an improp-
gation to be made
Very Respectfully
Wm. H. [unclear]
30



ACH:AI

62-32509 - 206

August 4, 1939

RECORDED

Miss Agnes E. Lewis
General Delivery
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Miss Lewis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters dated July 11, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, which have been referred to this Bureau for attention.

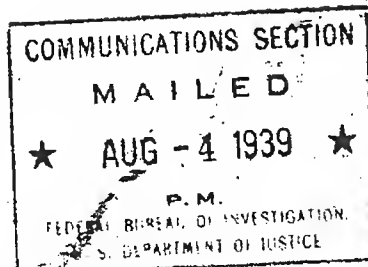
I wish to advise that the information as contained in your letters is being referred to United States Attorney Rams A. Viosca, at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Nease.....
Mr. Tamm.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Nease.....
Mr. Tamm.....



ACK
SMT

7/1/1939

Department of Justice for the

Attorney General Office

Washington D. C.

Dear Mr Murphy:



Will you please send an efficient
honest trustworthy investigator
out once to probe & also

investigate the cruel unknown

unparalleled fraudulent acts

& misconduct of agents acting

under the color of the law as

use the form of the questionnaire of

one of the John B. J.

demand that the

misconduct of the

authorized agents of

to please send some one

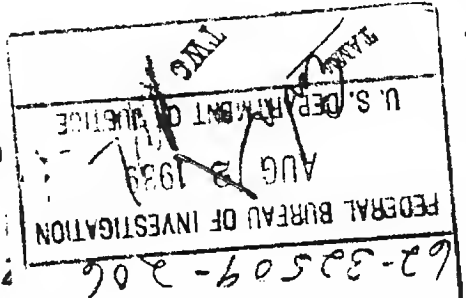
to investigate these complaints

as we have suffered & are

suffering irreparable injury

to our lives & health

Very truly yours,



RECEIVED

Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

August 7, 1939

7/9
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

2m
X
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is attached an anonymous letter,
together with three newspaper clippings, relative
to certain alleged conditions that exist in the
State of Louisiana, for whatever consideration
you may deem appropriate.

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

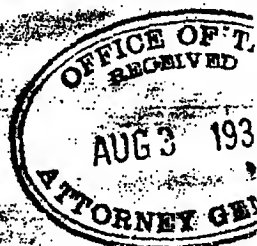
62-32507-2154

33



Mr. O. John Rogge, Asst. U.S. Attorney,
New Orleans, La.

Copy



Dear Mr. Rogge:-

100-310394

I have given you plenty of real dope but here is a real one of greater importance to you than any heretofore.

There is a man on the present Federal Grand Jury named **SPEED**, who is connected with the Mundet Cork Co. He is giving valuable information to Seymour Weis, Maestri and the big political figures here. This man Speed has sold big orders for cork and floor coverings made by his firm, also corks, etc. to the new Charity Hospital and I am reliably informed it was a shady deal and a kickback in money. The political gang have this over him and he is telling them plenty of what goes on in the Grand Jury. The name is Speed, on the present jury. If you watch him and follow his footsteps and plug his telephone you will learn plenty. This is real true facts.

Now the matter of the bribed Shushan jury that was bought and who acquitted him of income tax frauds. The Negro doctor is named Seque, and has an office in the 2200 block on Dryades St. You people must have been working on this case because Shushan phoned the Negro doctor and told him not to do any talking to anyone until he saw him. The other man is named Ames, and he lives on Milan Street. He got a new Cadillac car and some cash. The third juror is named Roger Hutchison, who is a Desk Sergeant on the New Orleans Police Force. He got a new home and cash at intervals. There is one more juror but I can't learn his name. This is no idle dope.

Now the barral house politician who so severely castigated you and Attorney General Murphy last night over the radio, namely Shirley Wimberley, is a law partner of Governor Earl Long. His record is rank for fraud and slick practices about town. He and another political lawyer in the partnership with Earl Long, namely, Glen Sehart, both get \$400 per month from the "Deducts" that they take from the pay of State employees. No wonder he raised such a howl over your investigation of Deducts. They all get their share, even Long. If you stick close to John Fush, the man who handled the Deducts you will find out plenty. Fush beat his income tax and owns several pieces of property and a large home at Bay St. Louis Miss.

I hope you will soon find out that the people of this State know this Wimberley and his tribe. This is the same stunts they pulled on General Ansell, etc. when they were down here investigating Huey Long and his crowd a few years ago. They blasted them on the radio and got out circulars on every lie they could think up on the Government men. This is done to try and get Murphy to fall off his men. They surely insulted Atty. General Murphy and you and several others.

You will also note all the apologies by Maestri and the Lawyer of William Helis about their oil connections. You know about a week ago they let out that nothing would come of the investigation because Elliott Roosevelt and Farley were linked with Helis in an oil deal that was shady. This came out of Bob Maestri's office.

100-310394
SEP 17 1934

62-32507-2054

34

Please send to Attorney General Murphy from now on all the newspaper letters from the people of this State that will write and rebuke this Winberley for this speech against you and Mr. Murphy, they will run in great numbers.

Please follow up this case of the man named Speed, now on the Grand Jury, who is telling all that goes on in the Jury Room to the politicians.

I get dope from the inside and will pass it on to you.

Mr. Murphy -

This man Winberley slandered
your record and said "you were
kicked out of Michigan" -

COPIES DESTROYED

Deadline:

The attorney said, "Major Macmillan owns stock in the Caneal Oil company which is headed by Mr. Hottel, and the company operates in several fields, notably the Florida or Little Havana field in Texas, which in addition to the Caneal Oil company holdings which are on the Bernard tract, Mr. Hottel, individually owns other producing wells in the field. Let me not forget."

Then he swallowed it.

Money Unsafe Outside,

When asked about the charges made by the attorney, Mayor Cobb said he has no comment to make.

Mr. Cobb visited the mayor's office in the city hall this morning.

No Comment

Mr. Cobb and further, "Lynchman Lodge is not interested in the Hells operations and is not connected with any of the Hells connected in any way." Responding that Mr. Hells was attempting to publish the poisoning in the state was denied by Mr. Cobb. A reported deal with the Hells was confirmed by Mr. Hells. Mr. Hells was confirmed by Mr. Cobb, who said the terms of the deal were not satisfactory and recommended that the Hells be turned down the offer. Decker. "As for these reports that Cobb is dealing in hot oil, we are willing to reveal themselves and the facts will reveal themselves."

Shirley Wimberly, associated in the practice of law with Governor Karl K. Long, Monday night caused operators of the United States department of justice to meddle into purely state affairs in Louisiana and warned them to quit fooling around with state's rights.

Speaking over radio station WABU, Mr. Wimberly made personal attacks on members of the citizens' voluntary committee of Louisiana, criticized The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States, and defended "defuncts" as the best system in politics.

Directing his remarks to "this fellow Hogge (O. John Hogge, assistant United States attorney-general), the attorney said, 'You are not going to run this state. You can tell your boss, Frank Murphy, that.'"

Mr. Wimberly warned federal investigators to "Continue your beliefs within the confines of your sworn duty."

"You are just plain politicians, no better and no worse than the average," he asserted. "Don't you know that you are just pay-roll boys? Don't you know and I know that you pulled political wires to get where you are."

The speaker then referred to United States Attorney-General Murphy as "nothing more nor less than a common or garden variety of politician."

Intimates Retaliation

Mr. Wimberly later directed this remark to Mr. Hogge: "Well, fooling around with state's rights and attend to federal matters or get mad at you."

"Your boss, Mr. Murphy, might want to run for president on the Democratic ticket," Mr. Wimberly asserted, then remarked: "There might be a few of us Louisianians who will take the stump in other states and tell the people in what he thinks about state's rights."

WIMBERT & BARR
FEDERAL PROBLEMS
CITIZENS' GROUP
Strains Operations
Middle in State and
Defends De-ducts

MAESTRI DETAILS CONNECTION WITH OIL STOCK, WELLS

Mayor Robert E. Maestri Monday Made No Effort to Make Secret of Them

Mayor Robert E. Maestri Monday detailed his affiliations in the oil business with William Hells, asserting that "I have made no effort to make a secret of them."

Mayor Maestri said he owns 50 per cent of the stock in the Canal Oil Company, which Mr. Hells heads, and that he and Mr. Hells jointly own three wells in the Valentine field in Lafourche parish. The Canal Oil Company operates in the Little Bayou field in Iberia parish and in the Leeville field, Lafourche parish.

The mayor's statement was in confirmation of one issued by Lloyd J. Cobb, attorney for Mr. Hells, in which Mr. Cobb said the mayor owns stock in the Canal Oil Company. Mr. Cobb returned Sunday from Greece, where Mr. Hells presently is making oil tests.

"There Is No Secret"

Mr. Cobb stated that Mayor Maestri "owns stock in the Canal Oil Company which is headed by Mr. Hells." Both he and Mayor Maestri said that Mr. Hells has other holdings in which the mayor is not interested.

"There is no secret of the fact that I am a stockholder in the Canal Oil Company," Mayor Maestri said. "That is a matter of public record in Lafourche and Iberia parishes, where I have holdings. None of my dealings are done in secret; they are all above the board."

Mayor Maestri said that he and Mr. Hells have three producing wells in the Valentine field.

"The drilling company gets 50 per cent, I get 25 per cent and Mr. Hells gets 25 per cent there," he said.

Operations in Greece

Mr. Cobb, who left Greece about two weeks ago, said that Mr. Hells was engaged then in drilling his third oil test in that country and planned to start a fourth operation soon. The first two tests, carried to a shallow depth, were classified as dry holes, he said.

Mr. Hells left New Orleans several months ago to effectuate a concession granted him in 1933 of the entire country of Greece for drilling purposes.

Challenges Anyone to Attack Reputation

Mayor Robert E. Maestri Monday challenged anyone to attack his reputation for honesty and said that except for that challenge he would remain silent for the present to attacks made against him.

He said he would remain silent even if the attacks are repeated and are made worse but that he would except from his silence this statement:

"I, as mayor of this city, have not taken a single dishonest dollar and I challenge any man to attack my reputation for honesty either personally or officially."

The mayor's statement follows: "There has been distributed in the last few days, in those portions of the city of New Orleans where it is considered that it would injure me most, copies of a newspaper published in a neighboring town, containing charges

...character ...
...administration ...
...of the ...
...in the courts ...
...against the author ...
...these charges ...
...have ...
...new some weeks.

"It is a matter of public knowledge that federal and state grand juries are now in session, investigating many matters of a governmental nature."

"What occurs before those grand juries, who appears before them, what is the result of the grand jury's investigation, cannot, by me, be said into."

"Those investigations, I know, will be thorough."

"I have been advised that for the present I must not take any notice of the unfair attacks made upon me, that my lips are temporarily sealed in my own defense. I shall follow that advice, for the present."

"I have, as mayor, given this city a better government than it has had in many a day, but let the people remember that no man can do everything at once. The public must be patient with me as I have been with many others. I shall proceed slowly but conscientiously and certainly in improving conditions in this city."

"The people must judge my actions in the future as mayor, by what I have done in the past. I will remain silent even if the attacks are repeated and are made worse, but I must except this from my silence: I, as mayor of this city, have not taken a single dishonest dollar and I challenge any man to attack my reputation for honesty, either personally or officially."

"I ask those who have read the cruel and unjust slanders that have been cast at me to be as patient as I am. It is easier for them than it is for me."

"I feel certain I will be exonerated from all unjust charges that paper makes against me by higher authority than a slanderous newspaper, inspired by malice and a political ambition, which, to succeed, must destroy me."

REMEMBER THE ROMAN

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

After... date, return to

Important
Personal

Thos. Frank O. Murphy,

U. S. Attorney General,

Washington

D.C.



COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

Baton Rouge La
July 11th, 1939

In re: succession of
Mr & Mrs John B. Lewis
No 2918 - 2525 etc

Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32509-205
JUL 12 1939
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
JUL 12 1939
JUL 12 1939
JUL 12 1939

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory.
Kindly investigate the complaint
which is made in good faith
& grant us speedy justice &
relief brought about through
bad faith & fraudulent acts of
incapable dishonest persons
acting in violation of a law
to defraud the heirs of the above
estate #2918. With kind regards
Respectfully,
Miss Agnes E. Lewis.

address
Gen Del. New Orleans

Copy
New Orleans
7-25
7-26

Babine Range La
July 11th, 1939

In re: succession of
Mr & Mrs John B. Lewis
No 2918 - 2525 etc

Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory.
Kindly investigate the complaint
which is made in good faith
& grant us speedy justice &
relief brought about through
bad faith & fraudulent acts of
incapable dishonest persons
acting in violation of a a a act
to defraud the Heirs of the above
estate #2918. With kind regards
respectfully
Gen Del. New Orleans Miss Agnes E. Lewis.

Dalton, Georgia, La
July 11th, 1939

In re: Succession of
Mr & Mrs John B. Lewis
No 2918 - 2525 etc

Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory.
Kindly investigate the complaint
which is made in good faith
& grant us speedy justice &
relief brought about through
bad faith & fraudulent acts of
incapable dishonest persons
acting in violation of a a a act
to defraud the Heirs of the above
estate #2918. With kind regards
Respectfully
Miss Agnes E. Lewis

address
Gen Del. New Orleans

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 28 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

NEW ORLEANS 7-28-39 8-07 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. R. W. ~~LECHE~~ WAIVED
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND TESTIFIED FEDERAL GRAND JURY,
NEW ORLEANS, TODAY. ROBERT ~~W. BERRY~~, NEW ORLEANS MAYOR, ALSO TESTIFIED
BEFORE IT TODAY. GRAND JURY RECESSED UNTIL THIRTY FIRST NEXT. STATE
GRAND JURY, BATON ROUGE, RECESSED FOR TWO WEEKS, APPARENTLY TO PERMIT
INVESTIGATORS TO RUN OUT LEADS. OLIVER ~~CARRIERE~~, GRANDSON OF LATE
LOUISIANA CHIEF JUSTICE G. ~~A. PROVOSTY~~, APPOINTED TO LOUISIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF ~~UNIVERSITY~~ SUPERVISORS TO REPLACE D. H. ALLISON.
EDMOND A. ~~W. JOFFRAIR~~, WHO WERE APPOINTED FROM SAME PARISH AT
SAME TIME, WERE CONSIDERED ILLEGALLY ON BOARD. KATHEN ~~S. KERANIFF~~,
BATON ROUGE ATTORNEY, ~~ATTEMPTED~~ TODAY ATTEMPTED TO COMPEL
FEDERAL GRAND JURY TO FILE FOR ATTORNEY, CHARGING THAT OFFICIALS
WERE IN VIOLATION OFFICE INTEGRITY. ~~REARER~~ APPEARS TO BE ~~REARER~~
FEDERAL GRAND JURY, A. H. ~~REARER~~ AT BATON ROUGE.
FEDERAL GRAND JURY, A. H. ~~REARER~~ AT BATON ROUGE, RETURNED TODAY.

RECORDED & INDEXED

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 1944

*Johnawed this
8-23-39
8/21/39*

W. C. CAGNETT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
July 29, 1939**

**Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.**

**Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning**

Dear Sir:

Mr. G. W. HOLLAND, Head of the Petroleum Conservation Division, United States Department of Interior, Washington, D. C., called at the New Orleans Division office on July 26, 1939, at which time he requested that any information received by this Bureau relative to violations of the Connally Act be transmitted to CLIFFORD C. ROWLAND, who is in charge of the investigation of violations of the Connally Act in this district. Mr. HOLLAND was advised that instructions given to this office by the Bureau were to the effect that all reports of alleged violations over which this Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction in connection with this case, should be submitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. HOLLAND appeared to feel that cooperation in this matter would not be wholly given unless the information received by this office relative to violations of the Connally Act were transmitted directly to Mr. ROWLAND.

Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, while communicating with Mr. TAMM of the Bureau on other matters, informed him of the request of Mr. HOLLAND; however, Mr. TAMM advised that information received by this office pertaining to alleged irregularities over which this office has no investigative jurisdiction should be referred to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, as previously directed by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett

**B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge**

**CWD:ALS
62-978**

**RECORDED
&
INDEXED**

203

43

August 11, 1939

ACH:LL

RECORDED

62-32509 -202

~~66-1045-61~~

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

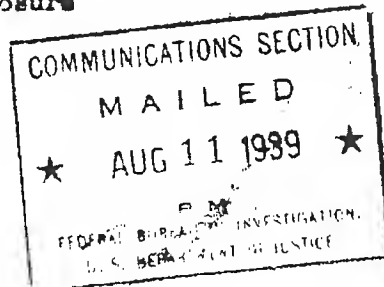
There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, July 29, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General by an "American," and referred to the Bureau. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Inclosure

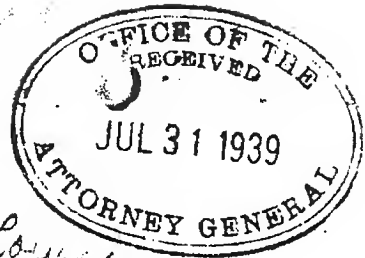


86-1045-61
RECORDED COPY - IN

141
5417

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

7-29-39



Dear Sir
MARSTRI
Senator Ellender

To report to him in N.O.
Marster thinking Vasso getting too friendly
with your men. and was giving him the
information he wants
It seems that Christianburg in the U.S.
opposed who is Marster shot pay over
has not been reporting enough to Marster
and he wants all the facts as produced at
each session or daily meeting? Grand
jury.
Up to the time Ellender arrived at N.O.
Christianburg did not or at least Marster
did not think that he was getting full reports.
The opinion here is that if thorough evidence
can be secured against some major actor in
this drama to indict him there will be a full
confession for immunity.
The fear of doing this is because of Marster who
does not hesitate to protect himself
An investigation in N.O. alone should and no doubt
should show a million dollar N.O. A start on
the municipal work in N.O. with padded
pay rolls etc etc

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 45-61

8/11/39 - J. H. ACH

62-2-21-202

To
Hon Frank Murphy
Washington DC

Accurain

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-1-81 BY 1043

RECEIVED
JUL 31 1939

45

Shreveport, Louisiana

7-29-39

Dear Sir:

Marstn ordered Senator Ellender to report to him in N. O.

Marstn thinking Vraso getting too friendly with your men and not giving him the information he wants.

It seems that Christianberry is the U. S. officer who is Marstn's stool pigeon has not been reporting enough to Marstn and he wants all the facts as presented (?) at each session or daily meeting of Grand Jury.

Up to the time Ellender arrived at N.O. Christianberry did not or at least Marstn did not think that he was getting full reports. The opinion here is that if enough evidence can be secured against some major acts in this drama to indict him there will be a full confession for annuity.

The fear of doing this is because of Marstn who does not hesitate to protect himself. An investigation in N. O. alone should and no doubt would show a million dollar WPA start on the Municipal Work in N.O. With padded pay rolls etc etc

American

To
Hon Frank Murphy
Washington, D.C.

COPIES DESTROYED
70 SEP 17 1964

August 10, 1939

ACH:LL

62-32509 -181, 193, and 201

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies each of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Kane A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, July 24, 1939, beginning, "Is there any truth to the terrible slanderous information...."

Letter dated at New Orleans, July 23, 1939, from Marguerite A. Richardson, et al.

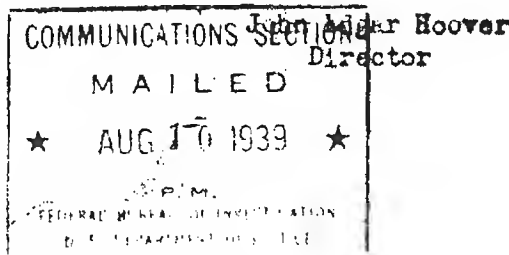
Letter dated at New Orleans, July 23, 1939, from Alexander Brownsdale.

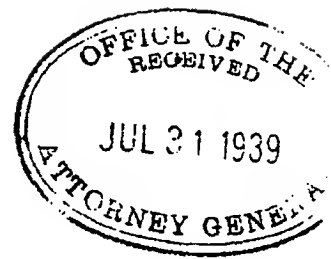
None of these communications has been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. G. Tamm _____
Mr. Egan _____
Miss Gandy _____

Inclosure





July 25, 1939

My Dear Mr. Murphy:

As an attorney who desires that the national government and particularly the department of justice be held in respect and in esteem by the public, I feel it my duty to urge you to insist on an honest cleanup of this horrible mess that makes Kansas City and Chicago look respectable.

It is sad but true that the decent people of Louisiana felt that even if they sold out their department of justice under Mr. Cullen they would get the income tax cases several years ago against ~~Lynour~~ Weiss and the other members of the Louisiana State Police and the most political plundering in the entire nation.

The general attitude of the public now is that Mr. Cullen is a man who is not to be trusted. For this present time the public is not interested in the members of the Louisiana State Police.

Mr. Cullen had not called off the dogs, had not let the public know that they could go as far as they wanted in stealing and in corruption--even to the prostitution of the youth of Louisiana through their manipulations at the state university, and this thing would never have happened.

Finally, I feel that the Louisiana State Police and the justice department is a disgrace to the state and that it is up to you to see to it that the thing is cleaned up this time.

I am sure that the Louisiana State Police and the justice department will be able to handle the thing up to the point where it is necessary to make a lot of things happen. I am sure that the Louisiana State Police and the justice department will be able to handle the thing up to the point where it is necessary to make a lot of things happen.

8/10/39 - 12

I am sure that the Louisiana State Police and the justice department will be able to handle the thing up to the point where it is necessary to make a lot of things happen. I am sure that the Louisiana State Police and the justice department will be able to handle the thing up to the point where it is necessary to make a lot of things happen.

Alexander Brown

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

JBH:DC

62-32509 -200

August 12, 1939

RECORDED

Mr. J. W. Johnson
Post Office Box 705
Laredo, Texas

Dear Mr. Johnson:

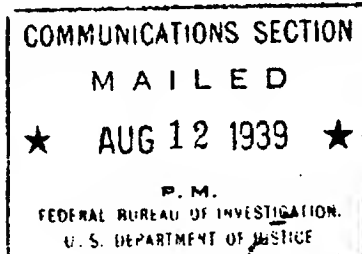
Your letter dated July 26, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General has been referred to me.

On behalf of the Attorney General I wish to express appreciation for your spirit of cooperation and your interest in law enforcement.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-San Antonio (with copies of incoming letter)





We Specialize in Supply-
ing Quail to State Game
Commission for Restock-
ing Purposes.

ESTABLISHED 1914

American-Mexican Bird & Animal Co.

J. W. JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS OF

LIVE ANIMALS, BIRDS AND REPTILES FOR
ZOOLOGICAL, PROPAGATING AND
SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

TEXAS GAME BREEDING PERMIT NO. 1-550-25-18

P. O. BOX 705

LAREDO, TEXAS

7/26/39

U.S. Attorney General Murphy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Have just read with much interest the articles appearing in the Asso. Press regarding your splendid work cleaning up New Orleans of all the rotten politicians there. You have the respect and best wishes from a large number of our citizens in this District and we hope that you carry the work on in New Orleans to a complete finish, the same as you did in Kansas City.

This District has suffered with the same troubles as the good citizens of New Orleans and Kansas City, had to endure, until you stepped into the fight and sent a large number of them to the Penitentiary where they belong.

We are still hoping that your Dept. will carry out the investigation promised us some time ago. Again assuring you of my hearty co-operation in this very necessary investigation at an early date.

I am as ever,

Yours for justice,

J. W. Johnson

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

50

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EAT:HA

JULY 27 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Transmit the following message to:

62-32509-199

RECORDED

SAC
NEW ORLEANS

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING
AUTHORITY GRANTED INVESTIGATE PETIT JURY PANEL

HOOVER

CODE

JUL 27 12 18 PM '39
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CODEL AN. SEN.

COPIES DESTROYED
SENT VIA 170 SEP 17 1964

Per _____

51

DECODED COPY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 25 1939

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-25-39 12-25 PM ALS

/DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. WILLIAM G.

RANKIN RESIGNED AS COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION OF LOUISIANA,
AND ERNEST S. CLEMENTS, STATE SENATOR FROM OBERLIN, LA., APPOINTED
TO POSITION. BLETHER E. FRAZER WHO ASSUMED L. P. ABERNATHYS

POSITION AS CHAIRMAN STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION LAST WEEK RESIGNED,
AND WARREN RAGGIO, FORMER CHAIRMAN LOUISIANA TAX COMMISSION,
APPOINTED. DR. JAMES. A. SHAW DISMISSED JULY EIGHTH, REINSTATED AS
DIRECTOR OF MINERAL DIVISION CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT. FOREGOING
CHANGES TOOK PLACE JULY TWENTY FOURTH. GEORGE W. HOLLAND, DIRECTOR
OF OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ARRIVED
NEW ORLEANS TO ASSIST IN HOT OIL INVESTIGATION. RENE VIOSCA, USA,
NEW ORLEANS, ADVISED JUDGE WAYNE G. BORAH CONTEMPLATED REPLACING
H. J. CARTER, NEW ORLEANS U. S. CLERK OF COURT, A REPUBLICAN AND AN
RECORDED & INDEXED

OLK MAN, WITH A DEMOCRAT ABOUT AUGUST FIFTEEN, THIRTY NINE. VIOSCA
REQUESTED IMMEDIATE DISCREET INVESTIGATION PRESENT PETIT JURY PANEL
EVEN THOUGH APPOINTMENT NEW U. S. CLERK OF COURT WOULD NECESSITATE

27

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1939
28

PAGE TWO

A NEW PANEL INDICATION DEPUTY CLERK PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE SOME NAMES
ON PRESENT PANEL MIGHT BE USED IN TRIAL OF MAIL FRAUD CASE PRESENTLY
PENDING. VIOSCA ADVISED THAT O. JOHN ROGGE TO CONFER WITH ATTORNEY
GENERAL RELATIVE TO TRANSFERRING HILARY J. GAUDIN ASSISTANT U S
ATTORNEY NEW ORLEANS TO CALIFORNIA OR TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
INSTEAD OF HAVING HIM RESIGN

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC GDH

53

ACH:LL

August 12, 1939

62-12509-198

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

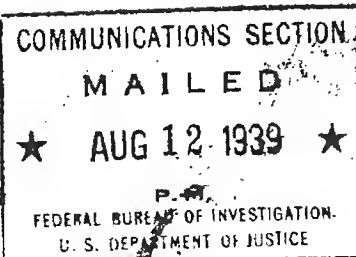
There are inclosed herewith two photo-
static copies of a letter dated July 27, 1939,
received by the Bureau from Mr. James K. Hanson,
of Morgan City, Louisiana, together with two
copies of the Bureau's reply thereto. It is
desired that one copy be furnished by your
office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca,
New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



AUG 12 1 06 PM '39
RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

44
5/10/41
54

ACH:LL
62-32509-198

RECORDED

August 12, 1939

Mr. James E. Hanson
1100 Fourth Street
Morgan City, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Hanson:

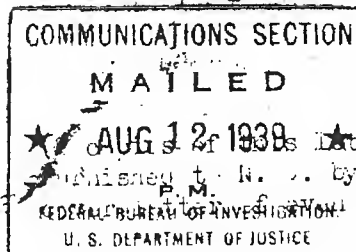
This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, concerning gambling in Morgan City.

I wish to advise that I have carefully noted the contents of your letter and fail to note a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. However, I suggest that in the event you do possess such information, you may be desirous of furnishing complete details direct to Mr. B. E. Sackett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 1308 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The information contained in your letter has been referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
AUG 12 1 06 PM '39

58

Morgan City, Louisiana

July 27, 1939

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Director, The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call to your attention something of grave importance taking place in this part of the country, which there seems no possible way to remedy without calling on you for assistance.

The question of open gambling and the slot machines: They are causing untold suffering among the people, and I have personally taken the matter up with the Sheriff, and was told he had no authority to do anything concerning the matter unless he had orders from the governor of this state.

You undoubtedly have seen the crooked and unscrupulous things taking place in our government of this state.

So is there any wonder the sheriff of this county wouldn't uphold the gambling and slot machines?

I wish it was possible for me to speak to you personally concerning this matter. Then I could express myself more clearly.

There has been several slot machines taken by young boys in this town lately and they have been arrested but nothing has been done about the matter. Therefore if the machines were within the law they would have been prosecuted.

RECORDED & INDEXED

If it is possible for you to send one of your men to this town without the authorities knowing anything about it, I will be glad to

8/12/39 - Recd.
+ 01 11 11

191

62-32551-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 31 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56
THE MAIL

Living Conditions Louisiana

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RAG:RLA

July 26, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Time: 11:55 P.M.

In response to a telephone call received earlier this evening, I telephoned Special Agent Dunker at New Orleans, and advised him that permission had been given to maintain a surveillance on Dr. James J. Shaw tonight. I ascertained that Mr. O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General, now in New Orleans, had verbally requested the surveillance of Shaw.

Special Agent Dunker advised that the Assistant Attorney General had made another request on the telephone tap of the New Orleans Mayor, the details of which would be included in his letter to the Bureau tomorrow.

I instructed Special Agent Dunker to advise the Bureau of further developments.

Respectfully,

R. A. Guérin
R. A. Guérin
Night Supervisor

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-13114-1750

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

60-32507-197

57

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

July 27, 1939

Time: 4:35 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN
LOUISIANA

Agent Dunker called from New Orleans in connection with certain developments in the above situation.

Assistant Attorney General Rogge has requested that Bureau Agents place a wire tap on the home of Robert Maestri, Mayor of New Orleans. Mr. Rogge has not gone into detail concerning this request as yet with Mr. Dunker but the latter wanted the Bureau's reaction to such a request. The tap is not to be maintained in connection with a case over which the Bureau has original investigative jurisdiction but will relate to income tax and hot oil cases. Mr. Rogge, according to Agent Dunker, made the request of the Bureau as he knew the facilities for such an assignment are available.

I pointed out to Mr. Dunker that the other Agencies also are equipped for wire tapping. I instructed him to inform Mr. Rogge that a matter of this kind is something Mr. Hoover has to pass upon personally and that his request will be brought to the Director's attention in order that if necessary he may take it up with the Department.

Mr. George West Holland, Director of the Petroleum Conservation Division of the Department of Interior, has requested that all information received relative to hot oil investigations be transmitted directly to Mr. Rowland, the man in charge in New Orleans. According to Mr. Dunker, previous instructions were to submit the information to the United States Attorney. I instructed Mr. Dunker to continue to submit the information to the U. S. Attorney.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Dunker stated that U. S. Attorney Viosca has made a request for an Accountant to assist in the hot oil investigation. However, he understands that two Accountants from the Federal Tender Board are now in New Orleans assisting in this investigation and he does not know whether this request will stand. I told him the Director would pass on this.

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

17-12114-1749

62-32509-176

58

- 2 -

MEMO FOR THE FILE

7-27-39

Mr. Dunker stated the surveillance was maintained on James A. Shaw last night. Nothing occurred except that a taxi drove up at 1:00 a.m. The license number was obtained but it was considered inadvisable to check with the cab company as the same is connected with the Mayor and other individuals involved in the investigation. In this connection, Mr. Rogge has informed Mr. Dunker that Shaw has made a confession before the Grand Jury admitting he received \$30,000.00 on which he failed to report any income tax. Mr. Rogge has stated the surveillance may be discontinued. I told Mr. Dunker he could drop the matter of checking on the taxi-cab.

E. A. TAMM

59

1508 Masonic Temple Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana

July 25, 1939

Honorable Rene Viosea,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concerning

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copy of envelope addressed to the Attorney General and the letter contained therein, mailed at Shreveport, Louisiana, June 30, 1939. This letter relates to the present irregularities in Louisiana.

The informant, TOM, about whom your office has previous communications, again contacted this office July 25, 1939, at which time he advised that JIMMY MORRISON was scheduled to speak over radio station WDSU July 26, 1939. This informant advised that he believed MORRISON would be able to supply a great deal of information relative to the irregularities of DR. CLARENCE LORIO and irregularities in Louisiana in general.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures

CWD:sh
#62-978

cc Bureau

INDEXED

62-3259-111
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 26 1939
RECEIVED
TWO

60

August 12, 1939

RECORDED

62-32509 - 188 - 191 - 192 and 193

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, together with two copies of the Bureau's replies thereto, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated at Crowley, Louisiana, July 24, 1939, from Mr. Lawrence G. Fugh.

Letter dated at New Orleans, July 27, 1939, from Mrs. Marie Hebert Holbrook.

Letter dated at Camden, New Jersey, July 27, 1939, from Mr. Frank H. Spuhler.

Letter dated at Morse, Louisiana, July 24, 1939, from Mr. George A. Chiasson.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED



AUG 12 1939

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Aug 12 1 07 PM '39
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

for T

ACH:LL

62-32509-195

RECORDED

August 12, 1939

Mr. George A. Chisason
Post Office Box 55
Horse, Louisiana

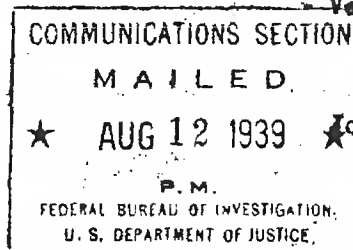
Dear Mr. Chisason:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 24, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, concerning crime conditions in Louisiana, which letter was referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I have perused the contents of your letter and fail to note definite information concerning a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. However, I suggest that in the event you do possess such information, you may be desirous of furnishing the same to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

I wish to advise further that the data contained in your communication are being furnished to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,



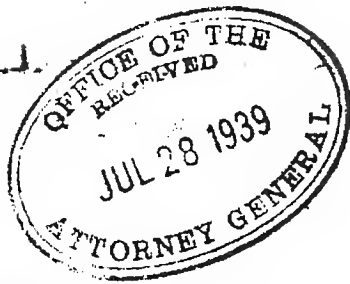
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Search _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

(A copy of this letter furnished
N. G. by cover letter if even date)

Aug 12 1 07 PM '39
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

62



P. O. Box 55-
Morse, Louisiana.
July 24 1939,

24
X
Attorney General -
Washington - D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-32509-115

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dear Sir -

I am a resident of the Fifth
Ward - Acadia Parish, Louisiana.
My home is two miles south
east of the village of Morse, La.

I have been trying to get things
straightened out here in my ward
since 1934 - I have been unable to
do so - I have affidavits of
fraud - but our Attorney General
in Louisiana, no district attorney
here don't seem to think this
should be pushed too far - they

8/12/39 - Lick. Fed. No.

0 2 3
didn't put it in words like that
but, no action in the last words
they could have used - and up to
date that has been no action
taken - would it be possible for
me to be called with all of the
information I have - I would be
willing to testify any time you
want me to. I am a poor man
but I think its time us poor
people try and keep the crooked
official holders from pulling us up
and out.

And its a disgrace the way our
elections are handled here - I really
think I could give you facts here that
would make this a better place to
live in - providing you take
actions -

69

3
I was a candidate for member of
Police Juror here last General election.
there are three precincts in this ward -
I was represented at one - I beat them
at the one I had representation -

When there is W. P. A. workers on a
road project - and this particularly
road that W. P. A. workers are on is
being graded - who pays for this
Gravel? supposin some of this
Gravel is stolen - what action should
be taken? I have a letter here sent
to me telling such has happened
here August 4, 1938 up to date
I knew of no action taken - this is
small - but a small thief makes
a large thief later on, same as
a small pig gets to be a hog if
you don't interfere with him. 65

4
I am an Ex-soldier - I served in
the Regular U.S. Army from Decem-
ber 1916 - to December 1920 I was in
Battery A. 7th Field Artillery during
the war - First American Division -
I was in France two years. My
two hundred days on firing line
so you can understand I want
things to be as straight as possible
that's what we fought for then - so
why not now?
Further more - I doubt if the veter-
ans right in January 1936 -

... Please Mr. Murphy see that I
get a chance to at least be able
to be called before your men at
Daton Range - New Orleans, or
one of your very able assistants.

could come to our home here - and
be in private - in other words, I am
ready to talk any place - and
at any time you choose, all you
have to do is say where and when
and I'll be there if God says the
same -

I know this letter sounds like some
one begging - but if you would be
in an fix you would beg too -

Here's hoping you find this your
very able attention -

I am,
respectfully yours

George A. *Chapman

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New Orleans, Louisiana**

FILE NO. 62-983

SMW:ALS

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 7-27-39	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-17, 18, 22 & 24-39	REPORT MADE BY B. M. WOLF
TITLE HILARY J. GAUDIN			CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE requested investigation as to Asst. U. S. Atty. HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, as possibly favoring SEYMOUR WEISS and others in mail fraud violations. GAUDIN is an appointee in office of U. S. Atty., New Orleans, on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and has stated he does not believe WEISS guilty of mail fraud. It is understood GAUDIN may be transferred to office of U. S. Atty. another section of country, or to the Judge Advocate General's department of the War Department, if possible.

P

DETAILS:

This investigation resulted from a request made of the New Orleans Office by Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, who desired information as to the possibility that Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, Louisiana, may be favoring certain prospective defendants in New Orleans, namely; SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, and others involved in mail fraud investigations in New Orleans and vicinity. This request was made of Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office, on July 16, 1939, and authority was received from the Bureau to make the investigation requested by Mr. ROGGE.

The writer was assigned to assist in investigation of other matters being handled by Mr. GAUDIN in order to discreetly conduct the investigation possible in this matter. During this association with Mr. GAUDIN, he volunteered the information that he and the other Assistant United States Attorneys, stating that four of them altogether were all political appointees

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">22</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 2 New Orleans		<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">COPIES DESTROYED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">170 SEP 17 1964</div>

68

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

July 27, 1939

**AIR MAIL -
SPECIAL DELIVERY**

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

**Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.**

**Re: HILARY J. GAUDIN;
Information Concerning**

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is the report of Special Agent
S. M. WOLF, New Orleans, dated July 27, 1939, in the above-
entitled case.

The latest information in this case is that Mr.
O. JOHN ROGGE of the Department of Justice was to discuss
this matter with the Attorney General, relative to trans-
ferring HILARY J. GAUDIN to another part of the country or
to another government department. However, this office does
not know of the Attorney General's decision in this matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett

**B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge**

**62-983
CWD:ALS
Enclosure**

62-32509 174

69

and were obliged to be careful in their associations in and about New Orleans at the present time because of investigations now being made of persons such as SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART and others, who are believed to wield considerable political influence. Mr. GAUDIN also volunteered the information to the writer during the course of casual conversation that he was interested only in SEYMOUR WEISS, who has been indicted for mail fraud; that he believed MONTE HART would probably be guilty of almost anything, and he desired to see him convicted. Mr. ROGGE was given the information developed to this point, as was Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, then Acting Special Agent in Charge.

During subsequent association with Mr. GAUDIN, he advised voluntarily that he did not believe that SEYMOUR WEISS is guilty in connection with the mail fraud indictment against him at the present time; that the only way he will believe WEISS guilty is to be convinced from the evidence produced in open court. He stated he is an appointee in the office of the United States Attorney on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and said fortunately he does not have to prosecute mail fraud violations, and that if he were prosecuting this type of violation he would either have to resign or be excused from participation in the case against SEYMOUR WEISS. This additional information relative to Mr. GAUDIN was furnished Mr. ROGGE by Special Agent SHIVERS and the writer in the New Orleans Bureau Office.

It was ascertained that at a conference between United States Attorney RENE VIOSCA, Mr. ROGGE and Mr. GAUDIN, which occurred July 22, 1939, in New Orleans, discussion was had as to the possible resignation of Mr. GAUDIN, and the matter was left pending until it was determined if it would be possible to transfer Mr. GAUDIN to the office of the United States Attorney in some other part of the country, preferably, Los Angeles, California, or to the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Army.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION:

At NEW ORLEANS, will follow the developments in the office of the United States Attorney as to Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New Orleans, Louisiana**

FILE NO. **62-989**

SERIAL **11**

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 7-27-39	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-17-39, 28 & 24-39	REPORT MADE BY S. M. HOLY
TITLE HILARY J. GAUDIN		CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE requested investigation as to Asst. U. S. Atty. HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, as possibly favoring SEYMOUR WEISS and others in mail fraud violations. GAUDIN is an appointee in office of U. S. Atty., New Orleans, on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and has stated he does not believe WEISS guilty of mail fraud. It is understood GAUDIN may be transferred to office of U. S. Atty. another section of country, or to the Judge Advocate General's department of the War Department, if possible.

DETAILS:

This investigation resulted from a request made of the New Orleans Office by Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, who desired information as to the possibility that Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, Louisiana, may be favoring certain prospective defendants in New Orleans, namely; SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, and others involved in mail fraud investigations in New Orleans and vicinity. This request was made of Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office, on July 16, 1939, and authority was received from the Bureau to make the investigation requested by Mr. ROGGE.

The writer was assigned to assist in investigation of other matters being handled by Mr. GAUDIN in order to discreetly conduct the investigation possible in this matter. During this association with Mr. GAUDIN, he volunteered the information that he and the other Assistant United States Attorneys, stating that four of them altogether were all political appointees

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		
3 Bureau 2 New Orleans		11

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
July 27, 1939

EAT:TEB

Time 8:30 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN
LOUISIANA

I called Agent Dunker at New Orleans with reference to Assistant Attorney General Rogge's request that the Bureau place a telephone tap on the home of Robert Maestri, Mayor of New Orleans, which request is mentioned in the attached memorandum. I told Mr. Dunker this was out of the question; that we do not tap telephones and if Mr. Rogge wants this done the organization handling the matter in which he is interested should be requested to do this.

With reference to the request for an accountant in connection with the hot oil investigation, I told Mr. Dunker that as they already have two accountants from the Federal Tender Board let them get another one from there; that we do not have any accountants available.

E. A. TAMM

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32507-193

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 28 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILES TWO
PERSONNEL FILES

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1964

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

ACH:LL

62-32509-192

August 12, 1939

Mr. Frank H. Spuhler
1107 North 33rd Street
Camden, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Spuhler:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, which has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

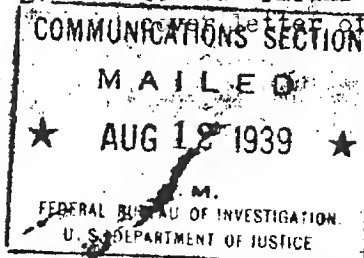
I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Vioona at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

(2 copies of this letter furnished
to New Orleans Office by
letter of even date)



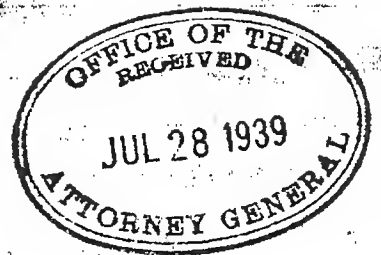
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
AUG 12 1 07 PM '39
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Spuhler

C 1/3

1107 H. 313 Lt
Cameron Hf
7/27/39

Atty. Gen. Frank Murphy
Washington D.C.



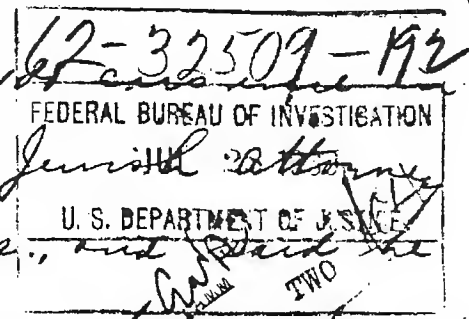
Respected Sir:

I reported the following Louisiana affair to the Dept. of Justice during Homer Cummings time and was dissatisfied with the reply that the matter was outside his jurisdiction. Here are the facts:

Political Situation Louisiana

I worked for the Tank Car Corp., Ireland Pa. which leases tank cars to the N. American Trading Co. operating these cars in Louisiana. The State of La. assessed the Tank Car Corp. so much for each car run into La. and this amounted to quite a sum as over \$12/39 - Aug. 1 del. N. C. ACH
involved. One day a young Jewish Attorney came to the Tank Car Corp., and said he could arrange to settle our taxes at quite

RECORDED & INDEXED



a service on the payment to him of a fee of several hundred dollars. When we figured out how much he reduced the taxes we paid him his fee, plus costs, and as soon as he got the check, he phoned up a Tax Commissioner named K. K. Kennel in Louisiana and told him. "Let the Tank Car Corp. alone as I just made a settlement with them."

This young Jew had made a tour of the Northern States settling bills with Tank car owners for much less than the true amount and collected good fees.

I think this is nothing but part of Huey Pong's gang's machinations and I know several tank car owners who will not lease their cars to any one operating in Louisiana because of this racket. If this is legal then the best thing that can be said is that it "smells bad to an honest man."

115

This name, J. K. K. Kennedy may have been
fictitious but the person so called was
either the Tax Commissioner himself or
one high up in his department.

This business offended my sense
of decency so that is why I would like
to put the facts before you to use
or not to use, as you see fit.

Yours respectfully

Frank H. Spukler

Frank H. Spukler

ACH:ED

62-32509 -194

RECORDED

August 12, 1939

Mrs. Marie Hebert Holbrook
417 Hillary Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mrs. Holbrook:

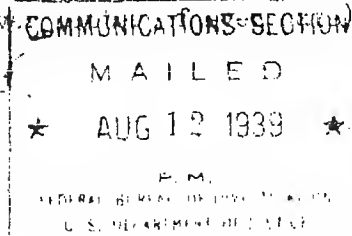
This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, concerning crime conditions in Louisiana, which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca at New Orleans, and I would suggest that in the event you have any definite information regarding Federal violations, you may be desirous of communicating the same direct to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

(2 copies of this letter furnished N. O.
Office by c.w. COMMUNICATIONS SECTION)



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

8/12

07 PM '39

Handwritten signature/initials

Handwritten mark

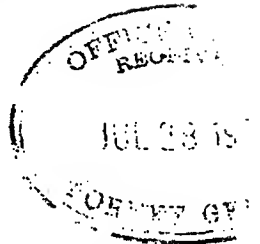
New Orleans, Louisiana.

July 27th. 1939.

Honorable Frank Murphy

Attorney General United States

Washington, D.C..



My dear sir:

Since your office is investigating the rottiiness existing in th
State Administration of Louisiana, I believe this is an opportune
time to remind you that the people of our State are fast losing
confidence in some Louisiana Courts, They distrust the Judges and
in fact anyone else connected with the Courts. These men seem to b
seeking only political advancement through their eloquence and cro
tactics. This is particularly true in Iberville Parish or in the
town of Plaquemine, Louisiana, where I have lived and where I have
been treated as shabbily as any woman could possibly have been .
I could recite to your Agents or Representatives a number of wrong
doings by this clique in Plaquemine, Louisiana and prove to you ,
that great injustice has been done to me by them.

I give you the above information, because I feel certain that y
will be glad to have a thorough investigation made. I am at your
service, and shall be extremely glad to co-operate with you.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Marie Robert Holbrook

7/27/39

417 Hillary Street

New Orleans

Louisiana.

RECEIVED
JUL 28 1939

78

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JFS:DF

July 20, 1939
12 Noon

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM *Eat*

I instructed Special Agent Shivers of the New Orleans Office to furnish a copy of the summary report of Special Agent C. E. Weeks, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 14, 1939, in the case entitled "Monte E. Hart, et al, Mail Fraud", to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge; also the report of Special Agent C. W. Dunker, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 18, 1939, in the case entitled "Louisiana State Officials, Information Concerning", which sets forth his interview with Mrs. Tharpe, former secretary to Huey Long.

Special Agent Shivers informed he received information from Special Agent Scott at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that it is rumored the State Grand Jury will return an indictment today against former Governor Leche for aiding Dr. James Monroe Smith in his bond manipulations. There is another rumor that Chief of Police Joseph Bates will be dismissed and will be replaced by E. O. Bauer, Jr., head of the Traffic Division of the Police Department, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a National Police Academy Graduate.

There is another rumor that General Louis S. Guerre, head of the Louisiana State Police is expected to be released momentarily.

Mr. Shivers advised he would immediately advise the Bureau by teletype if these contemplated rumors take place.

Respectfully,

J. J. Sears
J. J. Sears

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

79

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 20 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Lawler.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Sears.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-20-39 4-34 PM WH

DIRECTOR

MONTE E. HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. LOUISIANA

INFORMATION CONCERNING. ATTORNEYS FOR J. M. SMITH FILED PETITION

IN FEDERAL COURT NEW ORLEANS TODAY TO THE EFFECT SMITH ADVISED

TO LEAVE LOUISIANA JUNE TWENTY FIFTH AND DID NOT FLEE TO AVOID

PROSECUTION. BONDS SET IN STATE AND FEDERAL CASES WERE ACCEPTED

BUT SMITH NOT ADMITTED TO MAKE BAIL UNDER FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS

AD PROSEQUENDUM. THAT SMITH WAS QUESTIONED AGAINST HIS WILL BY

FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS, NAMING INVESTIGATOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT. THAT ACTIONS OF OFFICIALS AND INVESTIGATORS

OF US VIOLATED HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. FBI NOT MENTIONED.

REQUESTS THAT COURT ORDER THAT NO ONE CAN SEE HIM EXCEPT COUNSEL AND

THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO MAKE BAIL. NO DATE SET FOR HEARING THIS

PETITION. USA IS CONTESTING SAME. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ADVISED THAT

ROBERT LEE, ATTORNEY AND PARTNER OF FRANK REED, WHO IS ATTORNEY

FOR SEYMOUR WEISS, AND WHO WAS ATTORNEY FOR WEISS IN FORMER

INCOME TAX CASE, ADVISED INFORMANT JURY WOULD BE HANDLED SAME

WAY AS WEISS, THAT IS, BY LETTING ROAD LEADERS OBTAIN INFORMATION

FROM THEM AND THEN DISSEMINATE TO OTHER MEMBERS, ALSO

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

62-32509-189
JUL 24 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
TAMM
TWO

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-32509-189

40

PAGE TWO

HAVE BUSINESSES OPERATED BY MEMBERS FLOURISH. INFORMANT
ADVISED HE UNDERSTOOD THREE MEN WERE ACTUALLY PAID OFF IN
ABE SHUSHAN TRIAL AND WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN AND FURNISH
NAMES.

BE SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC

August 11, 1939

ACH:LL

RECORDED

62-32509 -188X 5-162-90X -86-1045-58

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

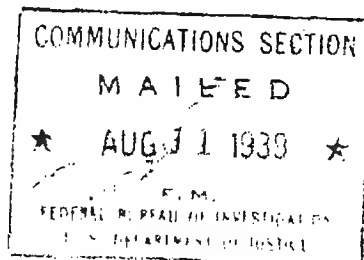
Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photo-
static copies of a copy of a letter dated at
New Orleans, Louisiana, July 20, 1939, addressed
to The Times-Picayune Publishing Co., New Orleans,
by "A Puzzled Citizen," together with two photo-
static copies of the envelope in which it was
mailed to the Attorney General, which was referred
to the Bureau by the Department. It is desired
that one copy be furnished by your office to
United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New
Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tides _____
Miss Gandy _____

5-162-90X
86-1045-58

82

Orleans, Louisiana
July 20, 1939.

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE PUBLISHING CO.
THE NEW ORLEANS STATES PUB. CO.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

Attention - Managing Editor.

Gentlemen:

Now, this letter is not meant for publication nor is it meant to have my name put into print - all it is intended for, is to settle a few questions that have been running through my mind recently - in regard to the "Stink" in Louisiana Politics!

I would like to determine for my own personal satisfaction just how much you, (The Times Picayune and N.O. States) knew of this messy scandal, before you had the nerve to stand the stand of publishing the facts as you have and just what pressure, if any, was brought to bear upon you by the "enemy camp" to make you publish this news - or did you do it just for the purpose of increasing your circulation? And another question - Just how much more do you know and not disclosing?

Now your answer might be that you were collecting the evidence for months, or maybe years, for it is hardly possible to have all this evidence dumped into one's lap in one lump sum, and if you did have this information in your hands for any length of time, saying, as I expect you to - that you were collecting all of this evidence, piece by piece until you had a sufficient amount - then you, The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans States are as equally as guilty as President Smith and all others implicated in this modern crime of politics, and you might consider yourself, and you actually are, an accessory to the crime. For had you known of the very slightest discrepancy in the W.P.A. Funds or the State's funds - it was your rightful duty to your patrons, who support you and make it possible for you to exist, and also to the voters of the State of Louisiana, who should be posted at all times on the affairs of the State, to come out in the beginning and demand that an example be made of those implicated in the crime. A crime is a crime, whether it be the theft of a postage stamp or a Government Building and if you had any knowledge of it - then, it was your duty to expose the guilty parties. If you had done this in the beginning it would have meant the savings of many thousands of dollars of the public's funds and would have stopped in a great degree the general pilfering of the State's as well as the Federal Government's funds.

Now each day you list in your papers the various indictments issued by the Government, State and City, but are you able or willing to predict just how many indicted will be convicted? I'm willing to say that you and the rest of the general public, like myself don't expect to see one single conviction - because, of the fact that those "in power" will see to it that the indictments are quashed and also see to it that the public will be satisfied to the extent of believing "They won't do it again - they have learned their lesson!" Can you truthfully say that you believe they have or will ever learn their lesson?

170 SEP 17 1939

48

age No.2.

Trusting all my question will be answered to the satisfaction of
all, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

"A PUZZLED CITIZEN"

George C. McDonald,
3507 Cleveland Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

ACH:LL

62-32509 -188

August 12, 1939

RECORDED

Mr. Lawrence G. Pugh
Box 367
Crowley, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Pugh:

Your letter dated July 24, 1939, to the Attorney General of the United States, relative to crime conditions in Louisiana, has been referred to this Bureau for attention.

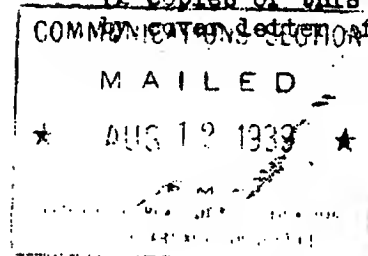
I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans, and it is suggested that in the event you possess definite information concerning a Federal violation, you may be desirous of furnishing the same direct to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Smith _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. C. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

(2 copies of this letter to New Orleans
by cover letter of even date.)

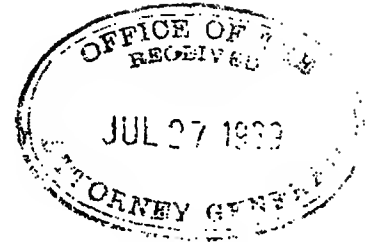


Aug 12 1 07 PM

85

Crowley, Louisiana,

July 24th, 1939.



Hon. Frank Murphy,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We hope that there will not be a third Louisiana purchase, and that you will continue your investigation until the entire gang of political rascals, now in office, are removed and jailed.

Louisiana is in such a terrible position that it is impossible to elect an honest man to a high office. Large amounts are spent to elect members of the legislature, judges, and even police jurors and school board members. The money comes from the State organization. Justice Fournet of the State Supreme Court was not legally elected, and takes an active part in politics and in the oil business. His conduct in office should be investigated, and the amount of his income should be determined. Judge Hugo Dore', of the Court of Appeal, is another judge who is an active politician and is said to have become rich in the past few years. Ack. 8/12/39

Hon. D. M. Ellison, the Attorney General of Louisiana, who is a Crowley boy, is reported to be doing everything possible to hinder your investigation, and cover up the acts of his political friends. He was secretary to Governor Leche, and was appointed to his present position a few months ago, I think, for the purpose of protecting Leche and the other political rascals. -15
86

The facts already developed by your investigation show what we have known to be true for the past eight or ten years.

I am not in politics and have no influence whatever, but wish to join the good people of Louisiana in asking you to do what you did in Kansas City - clean up the political corruption here.

This letter is not written to harm anyone, but to ask that you investigate the activities of the persons named above, and to continue your good work.

Respectfully,


Lawrence G. Pugh.

21449

August 10, 1939

ACH:LL

62-32509 -187 86-1045-36 94-4-1785-24

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

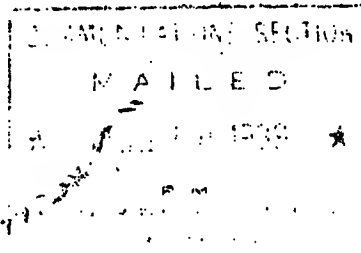
There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous letter received by the Attorney General on July 26, 1939, together with two photostatic copies of the envelope in which it was mailed, postmarked at Saint Francisville, Louisiana, July 23, 1939. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viozca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Smith _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. L. Egan _____
Mr. Viozca _____
Miss Gandy _____



RECEIVED
26 1939
GENERAL

21450

[illegible]

RECORDED

INDEXED

and the Truth and the

49

21451

West Sussex

Wm. J. R.

Mr. Rene Masco, 25 Duane St.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir, Please check up on
the PWA Cardboard in West. I believe Point
to Craft

Read a letter from Bowin to Auger
2nd. President of J. H. Martin & Co.
Governor of W. Va. & Co. & Co. & Co.
The letter is on political corruption & on
the subject of corruption. The letter is
on the subject of corruption. The letter is

The purpose of the project is to develop a system that can automatically generate a report of the project progress. The system will be able to track the progress of the project and generate a report that can be used by the project manager. The system will be able to track the progress of the project and generate a report that can be used by the project manager.

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped
 out of the plane was the fresh air. It felt like
 a warm blanket after a long journey. The
 sun was shining brightly, and the birds were
 singing. It was a beautiful sight.

COPY (7)

1453

West Feliciana P. Am.
State of Louisiana

Mr. Murphy, U.S. Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Roche Viozon, U.S. District Attorney
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sirs

Please send some of your G Mailers at once in West Feliciana Parish town of St. Francisville La. and make a thorough investigation for political corruption and graft in office here this has been reported several times but Gov. Leche no doubt squashed them.

(1) Resettlement Administrations office from beginning of same under T. D. Gilmore, a Mr. Miller, who had this in charge. The corruption in graft and politics was mixed up. There were grafts on the Government by charging outrageous prices to tenants for old half dead mules and horses and supplies. These poor tenant farmers were compelled to buy from the dealers of the office in charge. They could not get their checks and buy on open market. They had to buy where the big shots would get their graft. This was a regular racket. They had their committee to pass on loans which all got graft.

Man in charge of office T. D. Gilmore, Mr. Miller - forced to have politics grafters fill out. Committee on loans passed on loans who could not loan a copper cent of their own who let out Gov. and tax money like water. Committee for Govt. passed an Loan - J. F. Rutledge, Jas. Montgomery, G. E. Daniel - graft & corruption. Mule & supply dealers Joe Rosental; Joe Rinsudo, R. T. Harrell, A. W. Noland, J. Luis Dequilla, Lee Robinson, Abe Stern, Thom. Butler, Robt. Fisher.

In order to get the truth and low down ask citizen of the parish about this graft, and white and negro tenants. They will show how you have stuck the Government and tax payers. Mules are old age and dead & loans are closed & never will pay off. Please investigate.

S/ A Tax Payer

91



COPY (gar)

21454

West Feliciana Parish
Louisiana

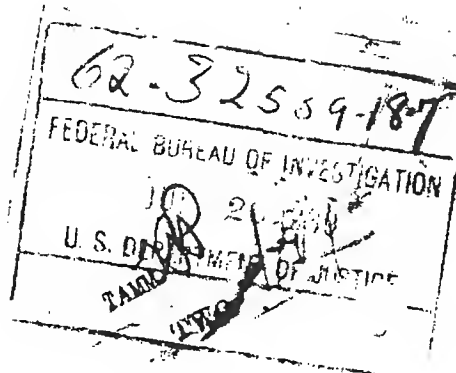
Mr. Murphy U. S. Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Rene Vilson U. S. District Attorney
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

Send a G Man please check up on the P.F.A. Corruption in West Feliciana Parish. PFA roads paving from Bains, La. to Anguila State Penitentiary. By T. H. Morton & ex governor R. W. Leche, who backed up the graft & politics on political hiring labor for political graft & corruption. This job was supposed to be contracted they built with gov. money and no record of award. Please investigate this part of PFA & all in this parish for graft & corruption. You can find out a lot if you look at the bottom of this PFA in this Parish PFA San Fire Line Project in West Feliciana Parish St. Louisville, La. to Paris, La. All but tax owners witness graft and corruption in this case. No permit from tax owners to PFA families further at expense of tax payers for grafters to make money. Committee on this G. M. Lester, Mr. Cambell, J. R. Matthew, Joe Rinsudo, Joe Rosental, Frank Spohn, Ed Robb, Jas. Kilbourne.

Please investigate these findings for the tax payers who pay taxes. Also investigate the public welfare of the Parish. Ask the citizens who pay taxes.



93

RECORDED

ACH:AI
62-32509-186X

August 3, 1939

Mr. John Delagarsa, Jr.
Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Delagarsa:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 20, 1939, addressed to the Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, and which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

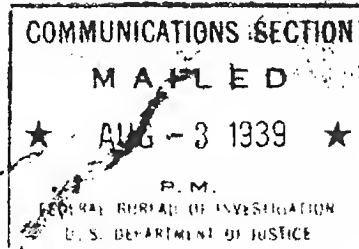
It is noted in your letter that you request that an investigation be made of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare. In this connection, I would suggest that in the event you have any information concerning violation of Federal law that you may be desirous of furnishing same direct to United States Attorney Rene Viosca, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Lawler.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Gurnea.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Pennington.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

cc - New Orleans



8

SLT
ACB 94

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Official Indicated Below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

Solicitor General Jackson
 Assistant to the Attorney General
 Assistant Attorney General Arnold
 Assistant Attorney General Morris
 Assistant Attorney General Whitaker
 Assistant Attorney General Little
 Assistant Attorney General Rogers
 Assistant Solicitor General Bell
 Mr. Hoover, Dir., Bu. of Investigation
 Mr. Bennett, Director of Prisons
 Mr. Martin, Director of War Risk Bureau
 Mr. Lawrence, Dir., Bond and Spirits Division
 Mr. Quinn, Administrative Assistant
 Mr. Kemp, Special Assistant
 Mr. Holtzoff, Special Assistant
 Board of Parole
 Mr. Lyons, Pardon Attorney
 Mr. McClure, General Agent
 Mr. Donaldson, Chief Clerk
 Mr. Hill, Appointment Clerk
 Mr. Crain, Division of Records
 Mr. Holland, Division of Supplies
 Mr. McKavitt, Librarian
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Mulcahy
 Miss Bumgardner
 Mr. Gates
 Mr. Hedetniemi
 Miss LaHue
 Miss Watters
 Mr. Euwer

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

98

ring their shotguns or rifles, remained about the grounds in little groups, but gradually even these left for their homes.

Chief of Police King Streng, who was in his office in the nearby city police headquarters said that he had no statement to make.

Songy Questioned

"A man by the name of Songy was picked up last night by this department," he said. "There is nothing unusual in that. He was driving a car without license plates and at a high rate of speed and was taken to the jail as a matter of course. He immediately got into touch with his attorney, Roland Kizer, to whom he was at once paroled, since Mr. Kizer is a householder here in Baton Rouge and well known. He was asked to come in this morning at 9:30 o'clock and at that time he was questioned by myself and by Assistant District Attorney Fred LeBlanc for about half an hour. He is not under arrest, he was not under arrest at any time today and no charge has as yet been made against him."

REEVES PROMOTED BY I. C. RAILROAD

Robert D. Reeves, formerly of New Orleans, has been appointed assistant traffic manager of the Illinois Central railroad system, it was announced yesterday, succeeding the late Martin L. Costley.

His appointment as head of the Illinois Central traffic department in New Orleans returns Mr. Reeves here after an absence of three years, during which time he has been assistant traffic manager at Memphis.

Mr. Reeves came to New Orleans in 1912 as assistant general freight agent and for three and a half years he had charge of the freight traffic work of the railroad in this area. Under the supervision of Robert C. Perkins. In 1915 he resumed his Illinois Central connection to be managing director of the DeBardleben interests in New Orleans and continued to reside here until 1931, when he went to Memphis. Charles C. Cameron, vice-president of the Illinois Central system came to New Orleans to install Mr. Reeves in his new position. John R. MacLeod, former

Indictment of Orleans Matter To Louisiana Politician

Seymour Weiss Faces New Charge, But Probably Isn't Much Disturbed

Mr. Pepler's column gives expression to his personal opinions, which frequently are at variance with the editorial policies of The Inquirer.

Seymour Weiss, the New Orleans linkkeeper and politician, who has been indicted on a Federal charge in connection with the current Louisiana corruption, has enjoyed an interesting immunity up to now. He was indicted once before on income tax charges, but a settlement was accepted after the death of Huey Long in a political reconciliation between the heirs of the Long gang and the New Deal which has become famous, or infamous, as the Second Louisiana Purchase.

At the time of the compromise it was announced in explanation of the Federal Government's action that there had been "a change of atmosphere" in Louisiana, and Homer Cummings had to take the fall. He didn't peep.

Now the same department, under a new and younger Attorney General, Mr. Murphy, has indicted Mr. Weiss because certain documents were sent through the mails in the perpetration of a deal which is alleged to have been fraudulent.

The income tax case was much more fraudulent, but neither one involved such flagrant defiance of the United States as Mr. Weiss' conduct in a previous affair, the investigation of the election by fraud of United States Senator John W. Overton.

Boasts of Driving Senate Out

In that investigation Mr. Weiss defied a subcommittee of the United States Senate in hearings in New Orleans and taunted General Ansell, the Senate's counsel, to step outside the room, the suggestion being that he would punch the general's ears off. Huey Long was present, interrupting the proceedings and leading a packed gallery of political hoodlums, some of whom were armed, in disorderly demonstrations around the door. Huey was riding high at the time, and Weiss, who was his treasurer, had confidence that Huey's resourcefulness would pull him through any embarrassment with the Senate.

Long afterward, probably to this day, it has been Mr. Weiss' boast that he practically ran the United States Senate out of town, although now that there has been another "change of atmosphere" in New Orleans he may be somewhat more demure about his defiance of a body which has been known to defend its dignity with a terribly swift sword when challenged by less troublesome men than Huey Long.

Overton was elected as a Long stooge by the aid of a system of dummy candidates and fraud in the ballot boxes.

On the stand Mr. Weiss replied "None of your business," "Yes, I refuse to answer," and "You are ridiculous" to General Ansell as the Senate's legal counsel attempted to obtain information as to the source of campaign funds and their expenditure. When he said, "You are ridiculous," Huey interrupted to say, "He might invite you outside." At this suggestion Weiss, who sometimes acted as Huey's physical protector in small scuffles, challenged. "No, he has much better sense than to do that."

Weiss Contempt Overlooked

Somewhat later Senator Logan of Kentucky threatened contempt proceedings against Mrs. Hilda Phelps Hammond of New Orleans and other Louisiana women for insisting that Overton be thrown out of the Senate according to the law and several precedents. But Mr. Weiss' contempt was overlooked, and in the course of time he became again an intimate political friend of James A. Farley and a toiler for the Louisiana department of the New Deal under President Roosevelt.

His conduct and the conduct of the Long machine in the Overton election were condoned, if not indorsed, even though Senator Connally of Texas said in a report on the inquiry: "Such a device"—meaning the dummy candidate system used by Long to elect Overton—"is a fraud on the right of any free people, because it is absolutely impossible for the public to know whether all the ballots were put there by voters or by hand-picked political bushwackers. We find that in New Orleans there was fraud."

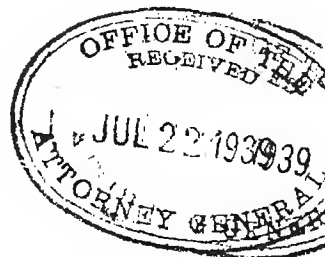
Senator Connally also said that the Long system of assessment and extortion of political funds, administered by Weiss, was "a vicious system under which helpless victims can be made the victims of extortion."

With such experiences in his past Mr. Weiss may feel little disturbed by the fluttering activities of Mr. Murphy in the new disturbance to date. The atmosphere of Louisiana, and particularly that of New Orleans, is subject to sharp, unpredictable

JOHN DELAGARZA, JR.

PONCHATOULA, LA.

27
20th of July
1 9 3 9



Hon. Frank Murphy, Attorney General
United States of America
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Since my resignation some months ago as editor of "The Farmers' Friend", one of the largest farm papers in the state of Louisiana, I have devoted the greatest part of my time to the study of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare and its' connections with the political factions of this state.

As I have always been interested in governmental aid for the aged and the needy, I was disappointed to find that my study reveals the fact that funds that rightfully belong to unfortunate people, are being squandered by the political administration that are now in power here in Louisiana.

Owing to the fact that some of the funds required to maintain this department are furnished by the Federal Government, I call upon you to conduct an investigation of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare at the earliest possible time. My office force will be ready at any time to assist you, if necessary, when the occasion demands it.

Trusting that you will give this matter your prompt attention, I remain

Yours very truly,

John Delagarza, Jr.
JOHN DELAGARZA, JR.

JED:cwb

RECORDED

INDEXED

adl cc
m. a. 87
act

62-2	1-16
RECORDED - INDEXED	
JUL 22 1939	
97	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 18 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-18-39 6-10 PM WH

DIRECTOR

MONTE E HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION
CONCERNING. MONTE E HART, SEYMOUR WEISS, LOUIS LESAGE RELEASED
TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND EACH LATE YESTERDAY. J EMORY ADAMS
RELEASED SAME BOND TODAY. JAMES MONROE SMITH IN FEDERAL JAIL NEW
ORLEANS AWAITING ARRAIGNMENT. ALL SCHEDULED FOR ARRAIGNMENT NEW
ORLEANS JULY TWENTY FOURTH NINETEEN THIRTY NINE. TRIAL DATE NOT
SET BUT EXPECTED WILL BE BETWEEN AUGUST FIFTEENTH AND SEPTEMBER
FIRST THIS YEAR. L P ABERNATHY RESIGNED TODAY FROM POSITION
CHAIRMAN LOUISIANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION. SOME CIVIC BODIES
DEMANDING RESIGNATION SEYMOUR WEISS FROM POSITION PRESIDENT NEW
ORLEANS DOCK BOARD. USA EXPECTS ANOTHER INDICTMENT THIS WEEK AGAINST
MONTE E HART AND JAMES MONROE SMITH FOR MAIL FRAUD CONNECTION
FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX DOLLARS SEVENTY CENTS
CHECK ISSUED BY LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TO NATIONAL EQUIPMENT
COMPANY INCORPORATED IN FULL PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE
SALE OF LEE CIRCLE HOTEL WHICH TAXES UNDER PURCHASE CONTRACT
WERE TO HAVE BEEN PRORATED BETWEEN VENDOR AND VENDEE.

SACKETT

END

RECORDED COPY FILED IN
5-162-93

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-325070

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO

ONE

Shaw to A. G.
7/19/39 J.

62-32509

Section

9

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:DM

August 3, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Crowl	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Lawler	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

While in the Attorney General's Office on July 26th, Miss Bumgardner advised the Attorney General that Mr. Emil Hurja had called and advised that Richard W. Norton at the Raleigh Hotel might be in possession of information concerning the New Orleans situation which might be of interest to the Bureau. Subsequent efforts on the part of Bureau Agents to contact Mr. Norton indicated that he had checked out of the Raleigh Hotel.

EDWARD A. TAMM

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-31 1-273

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

ACH:AI

July 28, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. F. SEARS

In line with your instructions to contact Mr. Richard W. Norton at the Raleigh Hotel and to interview him concerning matters in New Orleans, I telephonically contacted the Raleigh Hotel, and was advised that Mr. R. W. Norton had checked out early that morning.

Respectfully,

A. C. Hayden

A. C. Hayden

RECORDED

62 - 32509 - 223
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASH

*Memor. file
8-3-39 aut*

1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 2, 1939

Honorable Rams A. Viosca
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

In accordance with past procedure, there is being forwarded to you with this letter further information received by this office concerning the present irregularities in Louisiana.

W. S. LEWIS, Attorney of New Orleans, telephonically advised this office that a clerk in the Maison Blanche Department Store had told him that the Hospital Board had received some condemned X-ray equipment for the Charity Hospital and that the Charity Hospital used it just the same, after the equipment was repaired for them by an electrician from Algiers, Louisiana.

There is enclosed herewith a letter dated July 25, 1939 from CHESTER T. MARTIN, about whom your office has received previous communications.

Also enclosed is an unsigned letter from Iacombe, La., dated July 28, 1939.

Also enclosed is an anonymous communication addressed to the Grand Jury, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; copy of letter addressed to the Times-Picayune, Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, and Federal Bureau of Investigation; and copy of letter addressed to the Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

INDEXED

B. E. SAGGERS
Special Agent in Charge

AUG 7 1939

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

CMD:ALS
62-978
Enclosures
cc-Bureau

62-3509-22

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 7 1939
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
NYC

3

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

They advised that the chief purpose of their visit to the Attorney General was to get him to consider some system whereby the man on the street would talk to Federal investigators. They suggested that some Government official bring to the attention of the petty violator in New Orleans that if they would give information against such men as Abe Shusman, Monte Hart, Seymour Weiss and Robert Maesteri that they would not be prosecuted in the Federal Court in the event they had violated a Federal law; that to gather evidence against the political machine would be difficult as the persons who can furnish the information have undoubtedly violated some Federal law, and will not testify unless given some promise of immunity. They could furnish no specific information concerning Federal violations or persons who could furnish such information. Further they believed that this was necessary to successful Federal prosecution in New Orleans because of the strong power of the political machine headed by Maesteri and Seymour Weiss.

Mr. Costello and Mr. Alexis stated that the people in the street do not have confidence in the office of United States Attorney Rena Viosca, as he is a known associate of Robert Maesteri, and that the following United States Attorneys are politically obligated to the Maesteri and Weiss machines:

Hilary J. Gaudin
Herbert Christensen
J. Skelly Wright

The concrete suggestion to improve the office of the United States Attorney was that the Attorney General needs a good young lawyer in New Orleans, who can furnish information concerning anyone with political connections. They recommended a Robert Amesworth, who could collaborate with Mr. Rogge. They further suggested that the Federal Grand Jury and petty juries be investigated to prevent a recurrence of acquittal in the event of trial, such as took place at the time Abe Shusman was tried for income tax violations.

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

15 194

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Respectfully,

It is interesting to note that papers left with the representatives of this Bureau have notations to Bob Allen and to Green, who undoubtedly are the editors of the Washington Merry-Go-Round.

Reference is made to the articles that have appeared in the Washington Merry-Go-Round, concerning the Louisiana political situation, and statements attributed to Mrs. W. A. Thorpe, former secretary to Huey Long, that the Attorney General came down to New Orleans and made a pious speech and did not do anything about it. Mrs. Thorpe, upon interview denied making the statements, and advised she had been interviewed by H. J. Costello, who claimed he was a scout for Pearson and Allen.

Further reference is made to my memorandum to you of June 17, 1939, forwarding information furnished by Harry Costello. Mr. Costello advised that Huey Long, in his effort to defeat his impeachment as Governor, had to secure money from Robert Weaver, and thus obligated himself to the political machine of Weaver, Weiss, Hart and Brunsman.

Memorandum for the
Attorney General

August 3, 1939

- 2 -

summary to the Attorney General

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 31 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Lawler.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Seay.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

TWO TELETYPES WILL FOLLOW

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-31-39 7-00 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. COUNSEL FOR

SEYMOUR WEISS, J EMORY ADAMS, LOUIS C LESAGE, MONTE EHART AND
JAMES MONROE SMITH TODAY FILED REQUEST FOR BILLS OF PARTICULARS
AND DEMURRERS TO THE MAIL FRAUD INDICTMENT AGAINST SUBJECTS
BEFORE THE US DISTRICT COURT NEW ORLEANS. ARGUMENTS WILL BE
HEARD THIS FRIDAY, ON WHICH DATE THE FIVE SUBJECTS ARE SCHEDULED
TO APPEAR FOR ARRAIGNMENT.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-32509-221

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH GRAND JURY JUST RETURNED INDICTMENT
AS FOLLOWS, AGAINST LEON WEISS, THE ARCHITECT, AND JAMES MONROE
SMITH, CHARGING WEISS WITH EMBEZZLING FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS
AND FIFTY DOLLARS FROM LSU, AIDED BY SMITH. THE SECOND INDICTMENT
CHARGES DR CHARLES LORIO, STATE SENATOR AND POLITICAL LEADER,
GEORGE GRIFFON, OWNER OF A DRUG STORE IN BATON ROUGE AND D H
ANDREWS, MANAGER OF THE DRUG STORE IN BATON ROUGE WITH OBTAINING
NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS BY FALSE PRETENSES.
THE OTHER INDICTMENT CHARGES THESE PERSONS WITH OBTAINING SEVEN
HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS AND FORTY THREE CENTS BY FALSE PRETENSES.
THE GRAND JURY IN A SPECIAL REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT EVERY MEMBER OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LSU WHO SERVED DURING PRESIDENCY OF
JAMES MONROE SMITH TENDER THEIR RESIGNATIONS. THE PARISH GRAND

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten initials

PAGE TWO

JURY ADJOURNED WITHOUT PRESENTING ANY FURTHER REPORTS OR INDICTMENTS AND WILL CONVENE AUGUST FIFTEENTH NEXT.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE IS NOW HAVING A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH OIL COMPANIES TESTIFY BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY RELATIVE TO GRAFT PAYMENTS MADE TO STATE OFFICIALS WITH THE OBJECT OF UNCOVERING FEDERAL INCOME TAX VIOLATIONS. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THESE PERSONS ARE NOT BEING FRANK AND TRUTHFUL BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

SEVERAL DAYS AGO A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS CALLING THEMSELVES THE CITIZENS VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE, OF WHICH JOSEPH A. AIREY IS CHAIRMAN, PROPOSED THAT ONE OF THREE PROMINENT LOUISIANA LAWYERS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM BE APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE STATES INVESTIGATION INTO THE VARIOUS IRREGULARITIES. TODAY GOVERNOR EARL LONG IN A COMMUNICATION TO AIREY DECLINED TO APPOINT ANY OF THESE ATTORNEYS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL J. FAIR HARDIN AND OTHERS NOW HANDLING THE INQUIRIES.

SACKETT

END

17

KAT:GVO

August 1, 1939

Time: 8:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: LOUISIANA SITUATION

In connection with the attached teletype communication from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, asking authority to conduct an investigation with reference to William Helis as to whether he registered his yacht before he became a citizen of this country, I called SAC Sackett and told him to tell Mr. Rogge the Bureau feels these matters should be handled by the people who are investigating the "hot oil" investigation as it appears that William Helis is the owner of several oil companies involved in this investigation. I also told Mr. Sackett to turn over to Mr. Rogge all the complaints of the irregularities in the WPA, which were mentioned in this same teletype.

RECORDED & INDEXED

While talking to Mr. Sackett, and with reference to the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, pertaining to Shirley G. Wimberly, I informed Mr. Sackett that the Director wanted a very discreet investigation conducted of this man as to his background, associations, et cetera. Mr. Sackett said he had already started this investigation.

With reference to the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, relating to Monte E. Hart, Mail Fraud, I told Mr. Sackett the Director thinks this investigation as to whether B. J. Daly was retained on Dr. James M. Smith's own initiative, should be made by the Post Office Inspectors as this pertains to a Mail Fraud and in order that the Bureau shall avoid any friction with the Post Office Department. The same procedure should be carried out in connection with the suggested interview with J. Emory Adams.

In connection with the information furnished in the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, informing of the alleged tap on the United States Attorney's telephone, I told Mr. Sackett the Director had instructed he furnish this information to Mr. Rogge right away. Mr. Sackett replied that Mr. Rogge would probably want the FBI to do something about this and I told him to tell Mr. Rogge, if this occurred, that it appeared that the best thing

MEMO FOR THE FILE

- 2 -

8-1-39

to do would be to contact the telephone company and ask for an immediate check of all the wires and a report on this and as far as the FBI is concerned, there should be no investigation made at this time.

Mr. Sackett said he had been trying to get the text of the radio address of Shirley G. Ripberly but as yet had not been successful. I told him that no official request should be made for this at this time and he said that in the future all such addresses that were made would be recorded if possible.

E. A. Tamm

(25)

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 6-31-39

3-25- PM WH

FOR STOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. I CONFERRED WITH ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE AND U S ATTORNEY VIOSCA TODAY. THE PRESENT MOST IMPORTANT ANGLE BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVOLVES AN OIL DEAL IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX WHEREBY MAYOR ROBERT S MAESTRI, THEN STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER, SEYMOUR WEISS AND EX GOVERNOR LECHE, ALLEGEDLY PERMITTED OIL COMPANIES TO EXCEED PRODUCTION QUOTA, RECEIVING CASH CONSIDERATION OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS. OF THIS SEYMOUR WEISS RECEIVED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND LECHE SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. LECHE APPARENTLY PAID INCOME TAX ON THIS SUM IN HIS FEDERAL RETURN, HOWEVER, WEISS APPARENTLY ILLEGALLY DEDUCTED THIS AMOUNT FROM HIS FEDERAL RETURN. ROGGE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING INDICTMENT WEISS FOR INCOME TAX EVASION THIS AMOUNT IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX. ALSO PRESENTLY CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INDICTING MAESTRI. WEISS AND LECHE IN HOT OIL DEAL INVOLVED, HOWEVER, LEGAL QUESTION EXISTS AS TO WHETHER THIS DEAL WAS IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AGREEMENT OR MERELY A STATE CRAFT ON PART OF THESE THREE PERSONS. MR ROGGE NOW DOING RESEARCH ON THIS QUESTION BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO RETURN THIS PARTICULAR INDICTMENT. EXPECTS FEDERAL GRAND JURY TO RETURN THE INCOME TAX INDICTMENT AGAINST WEISS AND POSSIBLY THIS HOT OIL INDICTMENT THIS FRIDAY. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE NOW CONCENTRATING ON THESE TWO MATTERS AND FOR THE TIME BEING HAS DISCARDED THE WPA IRREGULARITY POSSIBILITIES AND OTHER POSSIBLE FEDERAL ANGLES, ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATIONS REGARDING THOSE ARE STILL BEING CONTINUED BY THE OTHER FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-320 9-211

I JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A PERSONAL CONTACT, A NEWSPAPER CITY EDITOR, WHO HAS IN THE PAST FURNISHED ME EXCELLENT AND RELIABLE INFORMATION, TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HEARD THAT SATURDAY THROUGH A RELIABLE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS ACCURATE, THAT THE PERSONNEL IN THE U S ATTORNEYS OFFICE HAVE BEEN TAPPED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION. I AM UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY FURTHER DEFINITE INFORMATION AS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 5 1939
RECEIVED

10

TO THE EXACT PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TAP OR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE TAP
HAS BEEN INSTITUTED, HOWEVER, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS INFORMATION IS NOT IDLE
RUMOR AND THAT IT DOES HAVE FOUNDATION. I HAVE NOT FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION
TO ROGGE OR ANYONE ELSE AND HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION WHATSOEVER, BUT WILL BE GUIDED
BY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE THERETO.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC CLC

copy

(ed)

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-51-39 AOARP AM ALS

DIRECTOR

MONTE E. HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. O. JOHN ROGGE REQUESTED THAT JAMES MONROE SMITH BE INTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE IF B. J. DALY, SMITHS ATTORNEY, WAS RETAINED ON SMITHS OWN INITIATIVE OR BY SUBJECTS CONNECTED IN INVESTIGATION, AND SUGGEST TO SMITH POSSIBILITY OTHER SUBJECTS MIGHT BE USING DALY TO THEIR BENEFIT AND SMITHS DETRIMENT.

ROGGE ALSO REQUESTED THAT J. EMORY ADAMS BE INTERVIEWED IN ATTEMPT TO GET ADAMS TO TALK AND THROUGH HIM GET SMITH TO TALK. ADVISE

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC GDH

RECORDED

62-325-09-218
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACH:VIM

August 2, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies each of the following listed communications received at the Department, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished United States Attorney Rene A. Viosecq.

Postal card postmarked Shreveport, Louisiana, July 12, 1939, 12:30 P. M., signed "A Citizen";

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, signed L. J. Raphael, Sr., 244 S. Alexander Street, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated June 28, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana, addressed to Mr. Eden Hardie, Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 19, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "Louisiana Democrats";

Letter dated July 19, 1939, Covington, Louisiana, addressed to the Attorney General;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, from Mrs. Wm. A. West, Jr.;

Undated letter, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 16, 1939, signed "American";

Undated, anonymous letter, addressed to the Attorney General, postmarked New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11, 1939, 7:30 P. M.;

Anonymous letter dated July 10, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, together with newspaper clippings;

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS

MAIL

AUG - 2 1939

F. B. I.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 4 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 86-1045-65

13

SAC, New Orleans

- 2 -

August 2, 1939

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed Frank H. Atwood;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed J. G. Corbin;

Newspaper clipping from The Times-Picayune,
June 23, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 14, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 13, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed "A New Orleans Schoolgirl",
together with newspaper clipping.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

**New Orleans, Louisiana
August 1, 1939**

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

**RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -
Information Concerning**

Last evening, July 31, 1939, I had a general conversation with Colonel James M. Thomson, publisher of the New Orleans Item and Tribune newspapers, during which Colonel Thomson expressed himself regarding the ruling of Federal Judge Wayne G. Borah at New Orleans prohibiting newspapers from publishing the names or disclosing the identity of any of the witnesses who testified before the Federal grand jury now inquiring into the Louisiana political situation for possible Federal violations.

Colonel Thomson stated that he is personally convinced that Judge Borah is honest, and that the Judge's intentions are of the best in connection with this ruling and, therefore, Colonel Thomson, although this is the first time in his forty years of newspaper experience that he has encountered such a situation, has up to now made no attempt to fight this ruling on the part of Judge Borah or disobeyed the court's instructions in any way. Colonel Thomson takes the position that Judge Borah's ruling is entirely without precedent and, in his opinion, technically is illegal.

Colonel Thomson stated that the thing he feared most as a result of this ruling is that it would create a precedent, especially in Louisiana, which would be followed by local and state courts in future inquiries of a similar nature into the state governmental activities; that, if so, crooked judges or courts controlled by the state machine could hide behind this ruling as a precedent in establishing similar rulings of their own in an effort to thwart honest and complete investigations. Colonel Thomson pointed out that in such situations it would not be possible for the newspapers to follow the proceedings to determine whether all witnesses who have knowledge of facts were called to testify, and it would enable the local courts to "quash" cases or investigations very easily following out the dictates of those in political power.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Colonel Thomson felt that the Attorney General should be acquainted with his views regarding this situation, although he did not ask me to directly inform the Attorney General.

COPIES DESTROYED
15-8-847-1-1964

Handwritten initials: E

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Handwritten 'S' with a checkmark

Handwritten: X for Tribune + 157

Handwritten signature/initials

Handwritten: 15

To the Director, 8/1/39

As a matter of background, for your information, the New Orleans Item and Tribune newspapers, of which Colonel Thomson is the publisher, have not in the recent past fought the state administration and while I am of the belief that Colonel Thomson does not personally favor the tactics and activities of the state administration, he, nevertheless, has not, as a matter of policy, fought the administration. His papers have commonly been referred to in the past as pro state administration.

I have of course been in contact with Colonel Thomson's opposition papers in New Orleans, the Times-Picayune and the States, the managing editors of which are very close personal contacts of mine. The officers of these two papers have not at any time complained about Judge Borah's ruling preventing them from publishing the names of witnesses other than to say that it makes it a little harder for them to report all the facts.

I know it to be a fact that the United States Attorney's office, particularly United States Attorney Viosca, has been inclined to be more friendly with the Times-Picayune and States group and to give reporters of those newspapers somewhat more information than he has given to the Item-Tribune. It is perfectly possible, therefore, that the feeling of Colonel Thomson in this matter is probably the result of the fact that his papers have been somewhat "out of the picture" in the recent developments so far as close contact with the United States Attorney's office is concerned.

I thought that I would pass this information on to you as it is entirely probable that the Attorney General as well as yourself may be interested in Colonel Thomson's present attitude. Unless the situation becomes aggravated in some way, I do not believe that Thomson will start a newspaper campaign to fight the ruling of Judge Borah.

I am following this matter closely and shall keep you advised of any further complaints.

Very truly yours,



B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

BES:sh
#62-978

EAT:HA

100-36507-216X4
August 9, 1933

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

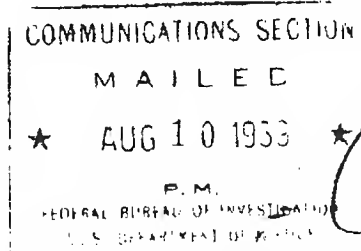
There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous letter and envelope addressed to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge signed "Honest Workman" which relates to the alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, President of the National Hotel Management Company. Mr. Rogge has transmitted this communication to the Bureau and the copy enclosed herewith is being furnished to you for such action and attention as you deem necessary and desirable.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy



ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is transmitted herewith for such attention as may be deemed proper in connection with the pending W.P.A. investigation, an original anonymous communication, dated July 19, 1939, signed "Honest Workman", with accompanying envelope addressed to me, postmarked at New York, relating to the alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, the president of the National Hotel Management Company.

O. John Rogge
O. JOHN ROGGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure: 103013

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32509-21644
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 12 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON
WFO

1 ENCL. 0

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Egan ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Lester ✓
Mr. Lawler ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Sears ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

Assistant Attorney General Rogge transmits original communication dated July 29, 1939, signed "Honest Workman" re alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, the President of the National Hotel Management Company, wherein it is suggested that the Director for his own good should keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels.

dls

19

pt

— 26 hours

Mr. G. H. Rye and ground survey
 Working in C.
 Discrepancy between them, later shut up on the
 pos. right Hilly, the National Hotel Management Co.
 to be captured the very thing, plenty enough to be in route
 and Europe, Hilly, and Hilly go away in dispersion
 something as Hilly?
 Your agents can measure thing if they don't want
 like Japan, and have for a lot of the ~~substantive~~
 interesting. Fellow Hilly, for his own good that
 keep away and not stop at Hilly, mind Hilly.
 You know you and Mr. Murphy for your your Hilly
 and effort to my 4.5 from instance in the
 becoming clothes the gangster structure
 Hilly structure Hilly C. Hilly shut up on the
 list instance gives to instance of the
 bank as the Hilly Hilly
 gangster appearance, Hilly and Hilly are
 a safe place for R. Hilly to hide, structure
 on the last day Hilly. On the last - he was not
 of 10, 10, 10, and yet against Hilly, as they come



BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BONDS



STER

Mr. C. John Rogge
Asst. General Attorney
Washington, D.C.

To U.S. Attorney General Office

... Personal

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gandy	.....

Mr. O. John Rogge, Asst. General Attorney.

Washington, D. C.

X Investigating Seymour Weiss, better check up on his pal Ralph Hitz, Pres. National Hotel Management Co. (the Al. Capone of the Gang) plenty dough hidden in vaults and Europe. Why did Hitz get away in Chaperau smuggling case Why?

Your agents can uncover plenty if they dont work like saps, and fall for a lot of free entertaining. Edgar Hoover, for his own good should keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels. God bless you and Mr. Murphy for your your honesty and effort to rid U.S. from vultures in the evening clothes. The gangster Executives.Manufactures Trust Co. should check up on the hot entertainments given to executives of the bank at the New Yorker Hotel.

Gangsters Executives, Norway and Sweden was a safe place for Hitz to hide valuables on his last trip there. On the boat - he was robbed of 12,000. did not upset him, as easy come easy go.

/s/ Honest Workman

July 18 - 1933.

RECORDED

62-32509-216X3

ACH:LL

August 12, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

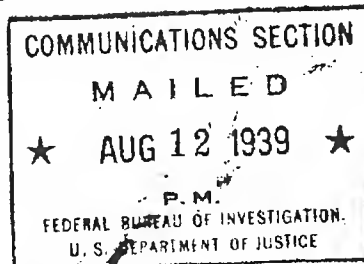
There are transmitted herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated July 24, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States by Mr. A. H. Perry, of Coushatta, Louisiana, and referred to the Bureau, together with two photostatic copies of the inclosure thereto. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Mr. Perry's letter has not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Aug 12 1 06 PM '39
RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
S. J.

23



7-BILLION DOLLAR TOLL-FREE TRAFFIC ACROSS RED RIVER AT COUSHATTA, LOUISIANA

A. Hazard Perry

Coushatta, La.

July 24, 1939.



W
Hon. Frank Murphy, Atty. General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The inclosed paper with a marked article, written by me a month before Gov. Leche abdicated and refused publication by all Louisiana daily papers, might be of interest to your department.

Sincerely yours for justice,

A. H. (Ackey) Perry
A. H. (Ackey) Perry,
P. O. Box 226,
Coushatta, La.

2/12/39

Set. M.C.

AC It

RECORDED & INDEXED

1 RECD. D

62-32509-21-XC
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
[Signature]

64

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

New Orleans, Louisiana
July 19, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated July 18, 1939, enclosed herewith, which covers an interview with MRS. W. A. THARP, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and her husband, W. A. THARP, which was conducted in Los Angeles, California.

The United States Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana, previously requested that ALICE LEE GROSJEAN be interviewed. It is requested that the Bureau advise this office by teletype whether or not a copy of the aforementioned report should be transmitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

CWD
PMH
62-978
Enc.

B. E. Sackett
B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge.

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

1 ENCL. C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-3257-211X2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 20 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED TWO

25

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New Orleans, Louisiana**

N.O. FILE NO. 52-978

REPORT MADE AT New Orleans, La.	DATE WHEN MADE July 18, 1939	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE July 11 & 14, 1939	REPORT MADE BY C. W. DUNKER
TITLE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS			CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, employed by HUEY LONG as Secretary in 1924 and continued in capacity when LONG became Governor of Louisiana. In 1929 was appointed Secretary of State to fill unexpired term and when office was filled by election 1932 was appointed to position of Supervisor of Public Accounts, name of which department changed to Collector of Internal Revenue. This department divided and W. A. COOPER placed in charge auditing department by Governor R. W. LECHE. GROSJEAN believed D. M. ELLISON and COOPER influenced LECHE in dismissing her, but advised LECHE gave no reason. Advised she collected five per cent contribution from employees her department which she submitted to J. M. FUSH, but no information Federal funds involved. Advised H. J. COSTELLO, scout for Washington Merry Go Round, contacted her. Denied making statements about President ROOSEVELT or Attorney General MURPHY which appeared in Merry Go Round column. Has scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Louisiana from beginning HUEY LONG regime and has photostatic copies of original clippings she gave to LONG'S widow after LONG'S death but denied having other documents. Denied any knowledge of Federal violations by State officials and associates, and denied being connected any irregularities. W. A. THARPE, former Secretary Louisiana State Tax Commission, advised collected five per cent contribution employees his department, claiming he gave same to ELLISON. THARPE advised he kept complete accounting these collections but no Federal funds involved. THARPE denied information irregularities Louisiana State University. Believed LECHE,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		AUG 22 1939
5 Bureau 5 New Orleans		JUL 20 A.M.
COPIES DESTROYED		
170 SEP 17 1964		

ELLISON, GEORGE CALDWELL and E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, principally involved in irregularities. THARPES intend returning Louisiana about August 1st.

P.

DETAILS:

On July 11, 1939, MR. SEARS, of the Bureau, telephonically contacted Special Agent in Charge B. E. SACKETT and advised that the Director had approved the suggestion of having an Agent of the New Orleans Office interview MRS. W. A. THARPE at Los Angeles and that the Agent from the New Orleans Office should fly to Los Angeles and return for this purpose.

The Los Angeles Office was telephonically contacted and requested to make arrangements whereby MRS. THARPE would be available for interview. A teletype was then received from the Los Angeles Office advising that MRS. THARPE would be available for interview on July 14, 1939.

At Los Angeles, California

Special Agent J. F. HYNES and the writer located Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS who was interviewed by the writer prior to the interview with MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and her husband, W. A. THARPE. NICHOLS requested information as to the purpose for the interview and was advised that the writer wished to ask the THARPES specific questions dealing with alleged irregularities in Louisiana in connection with the recent investigation there. NICHOLS, upon request, was advised that no Federal process was presently outstanding for the THARPES. However, he was advised that he could not be assured that a Federal process would never be issued for the THARPES in connection with this case. NICHOLS, however, advised that he wished to have MR. and MRS. THARPE interviewed and would urge them to give full details in connection with this case, as he believed that if facts did develop which implicated the THARPES it would be better for them to give complete information at this time than to wait until a later date.

Special Agent J. F. HYNES and the writer interviewed MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and W. A. THARPE, care of E. L. CORD, 811 Hillcrest Road, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California. They were interviewed in the presence of Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS, at his office at 650 South Grand Avenue.

MRS. THARPE advised that she became secretary to the former Governor HUEY P. LONG in 1924 when LONG was practicing law at Shreveport, Louisiana; that when LONG became Governor in 1928 she continued as secretary

for him until 1929 and was then appointed to the position of Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana and held this position until 1932; that she was then appointed Supervisor of Public Accounts, which position she held from 1932 to February 1939. She advised, however, that the name of the department was changed from Supervisor of Public Accounts to Collector of Internal Revenue. MRS. THARPE advised that as Secretary of State she handled election ballots, insurance company records, and conducted the office of Secretary of State in accordance with constitutional provisions. She advised that while she was Secretary of State she also was on the Board of Liquidation and the Insurance Commission. She advised that the work of the Board of Liquidation was to recommend loans dependent on legislative approval. She advised that she did not remember any loans to the Louisiana State University in this connection. MRS. THARPE advised that her duties as Supervisor of Public Accounts were to collect special taxes, such as, tobacco tax, soft drink tax, income tax, gasoline tax, and chain-store severance tax. She advised that upon collection of the tax she turned the money over to the State Treasurer. MRS. THARPE advised that when the office of the Supervisor of Public Accounts had its name changed to the Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, the office was split into two parts, and a man named WASHBURN was placed in charge of the auditing department, but that this department was later headed by W. A. COOPER. She advised that the division of the department was Governor LECHE'S idea; that the original law was that the head of the Supervisor of Public Accounts could not be removed except by impeachment by the State Senate; that LECHE, however, had a constitutional amendment enacted which made this position appointive. MRS. THARPE advised that with reference to her position as a member of the Board of Liquidation the name of this organization was changed to the Bond and Tax Board, which name it assumed in about 1932. She advised that she was Secretary of the Bond and Tax Board a short time after it was created, but did not remain in that capacity for more than several months after it was created. MRS. THARPE advised that the Bond and Tax Board was the State Board that had to approve all loans and bond issues of all political sub-divisions of the State, including the schools.

MRS. THARPE advised that she was transferred from the position of Secretary of State to Supervisor of Public Accounts because E. A. CONWAY was elected to the position of Secretary of State and she was, therefore, given the position of Supervisor of Public Accounts by the late HUEY P. LONG. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know why she was dismissed from her position as Collector of Internal Revenue except that W. A. COOPER undermined her with LECHE and got her out. She advised that when COOPER was put in charge of part of the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, he actually was getting her job. That when this trouble came up with COOPER over his getting her job, she talked with D. M. ELLISON, who said he would contact Governor LECHE and advised that he would call MRS. THARPE before he went to see Governor LECHE. She advised that ELLISON, however, slipped off to Covington, Louisiana, without telling her, as he had promised her he would do; that she telephoned the Governor at Covington and upon getting the Governor's

Residence talked to ELLISON who had already arrived there; that ELLISON told her the Governor would see her Wednesday. MRS. THARPE advised that she and her husband did go to Covington, Louisiana, and talked to Governor LECHE; that Governor LECHE told her she was working too hard and that she was getting too many gray hairs. She advised that LECHE appeared dopey; that she could not get anything out of him and could not get a reason from him as to why he was making these statements. She advised that this was on February 14, 1939. MRS. THARPE advised that on February 17, 1939, ELLISON said he had a letter from the Governor for her. She advised that this was a letter of dismissal; that in the letter no reason was given by the Governor for her dismissal. MRS. THARPE advised she had attempted to obtain some reason for her dismissal but had been unable to do so.

MRS. THARPE advised that the five per cent salary contribution from employees in the State of Louisiana began under the administration of HUEY P. LONG when he was a Senator; that it began as a temporary measure for political purposes but became a permanent thing the day Governor R. W. LECHE was elected. She advised that W. A. COOPER was the collector of the five per cent contribution in her department, but that she did not know any other collectors in other departments except her husband. She advised that this collection was turned over to J. M. FUSH but that she did not know where it was kept and did not know about any books kept about this collection. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know the purpose for which the fund was used and could not estimate the amount of money taken in. However, she advised that the amount of money taken in by her department amounted to between three thousand, eight hundred and four thousand dollars per month. She advised that she did not know of any instances where Federal funds went to employees who paid the five per cent contribution. She advised that some did not pay the five per cent contribution but that they were such a few in number that the head of the department would not mention it. She advised that it was also necessary to take a subscription to "Progress", a newspaper supposedly owned by Governor LECHE; that this newspaper was considered the Administration newspaper. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know the political set-up of the State at the present time. She advised that she did not know what connection DR. JOSEPH O'HARA had with the five per cent salary contribution. She advised that she did not know about the sale of the Bienville Hotel to the University of Louisiana. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information as to the property purchased by State officials while they were in office; that she had no information as to the taxable income of State employees or their associates and did not know what businesses State employees were engaged in wherein they sold products of the business to the State of Louisiana.

MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information relative to the administration of the Louisiana State University; that she did know, however, that if the University would make any loan, it would be necessary for the State Bond and Tax Commission to approve the loan. She advised that she had no information relative to the irregularities of JAMES MONROE SMITH and barely knew him.

21

V

MRS. THARPE advised that she was unfamiliar with the set-up of the Works Progress Administration in the State of Louisiana but understood that JAMES CRUTCHER was the head of the Administration. She advised that she did not know CRUTCHER personally, however. She advised that she had no inside information as to contracts let by the State on which WPA labor was used or Government funds were used for payments on the contracts. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no inside information on how certain contractors seemed to get all the construction work; that she did not know of any particular irregularities in the letting of contracts. She advised that she did not know of instances where the contractors "kicked" back money to the State or State officials on contracts received. She advised that she did not know of any connection between JAMES CRUTCHER, ROBERT MAESTRI and R. W. LECHE. She advised that she did not know about the two per cent GEORGE CALDWELL was supposed to have received; that she had no information about where WPA materials were used on private property and no information as to roads built by WPA labor for political purposes. She had no information as to the use of WPA labor and materials on the home or property of R. W. LECHE; that she did not know the names of any WPA workers who worked on private property while receiving compensation from the WPA. MRS. THARPE was questioned as to her knowledge of any irregularities in the Social Security payments. She advised that she knew B. W. CASON, Commissioner of Labor, but that she had no dealings with him; that she had no information as to any methods used whereby funds were paid out of the Social Security to fictitious persons or to State officials. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information relative to any graft on the new bridge being built at Baton Rouge. She advised that she knew JAMES NOE, a friend of HUIE LECHE, but had no particular association with him; that she did remember, however, that during the time NOE was Governor for a few months in 1936 the five per cent contribution from State employees was discontinued.

MRS. THARPE advised that while she was still in Louisiana a reporter from the Washington Merry Go Round column called her and advised that he understood she was going to write a book. MRS. THARPE stated that she told the reporter this had been suggested to her as she had been so young at the time she had held high offices in the State of Louisiana. She advised that this reporter suggested that PEARSON and AILEN of the Washington Merry Go Round act as collaborators with her in writing this book. She advised that the man who contacted her was E. J. COSTELLO, who claimed he was a scout for PEARSON and AILEN. MRS. THARPE advised that she never mentioned Attorney General MURPHY or President ROOSEVELT to anyone and never said what was quoted in the newspaper about her; that she never said "F.D.P. has not practiced in Louisiana what he preached in other places", or that FRANK MURPHY came down here and made a pious speech but that was all. She advised that she read the statement she was supposed to have made in a Washington Merry Go Round column; that she was greatly incensed over it; that she, in talking to the writer, was quoting the statement from a newspaper clipping; that she wished to reiterate that she did not make any statement with regard to the

construed to the statement she read to the writer from a newspaper clipping. At this point Attorney NICHOLS suggested to MRS. THARPE that she write the Attorney General and advise him that she had never made the statement which appeared in the Washington Merry Go Round column.

MRS. THARPE advised she had a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which she started about the time HUEY P. LONG became Governor of Louisiana and maintained these newspaper clippings until after the death of LONG, and is continuing them to date. She advised that after HUEY P. LONG died, MRS. HUEY LONG requested that she be given the newspaper clippings about her husband up until the time he died. MRS. THARPE advised she gave MRS. LONG the original clippings, but made photostats of these clippings which she had kept in her scrapbook of newspaper clippings. She advised that she does this as a hobby. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not have any photostatic copies or any original records other than the newspaper clippings. She advised that the newspaper publicity about her having important documents was false; that it was common knowledge that she had the newspaper clippings and she at one time kept them in her office when she held a State position, where they were open for public inspection. MRS. THARPE advised that E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, also had newspaper clippings which he kept as a hobby. She advised that when she first started her hobby she borrowed some clippings from CONWAY for her first five volumes. She advised that she now has approximately forty volumes full of newspaper clippings; that these volumes are about three feet square and six inches thick. She advised that she had these in a safe place in Louisiana but would not advise the writer where she was keeping them. She advised, however, that upon her return to Louisiana she would be glad to permit the writer to examine any or all of her volumes containing these newspaper clippings. MRS. THARPE advised that while she was Secretary of State she made five thousand dollars per year which was augmented by an additional two thousand dollars per year from the Motor Vehicle Bureau; that when she became Supervisor of Public Accounts she received a salary of five thousand dollars per year which was later raised to seventy-five hundred dollars per year. She advised that MR. THARPE as Secretary of the State Tax Commission received four thousand, eight hundred dollars per year.

During this interview with MRS. THARPE, MR. THARPE from time to time interposed and gave some information. He advised that when W. A. COOPER got the position his wife had held he called COOPER a "skunk" and told him he was going to whip him; that he did not, however, have this opportunity. THARPE advised that he was fired about the same time his wife was fired. That the reason he was fired was because he talked too much. THARPE advised that after he was fired he received a letter from T. A. BARTNESS; that this letter requested certain information about his income. THARPE advised that he replied to the letter written to him by BARTNESS, answering all of BARTNESS' questions and advising BARTNESS that BARTNESS ought to know about his income because he prepared his income tax statement for him. THARPE advised that it was evident someone in the Administration was trying to pull a "squeeze" play on him, probably for the purpose of making him afraid to talk. He advised, however, that

he would not be afraid to give any information that came into his possession. THARPE advised that while he was Collector of the five per cent salary contribution at the time he was Secretary of the Louisiana Tax Commission he did not keep any of the money himself. He advised that all of the money he collected was turned over monthly to DAVID M. ELLISON; that this amounted to approximately four hundred dollars per month. He advised that he would put the money in an envelope with the date and the amount and hand it to ELLISON who would put it in a safe in the Governor's office. He advised that word would usually come to his department that J. M. FUSH was coming to town. THARPE advised that during the time he collected the five per cent contribution he collected personal checks and endorsed them and turned them over to ELLISON. He advised that he kept an accounting of every penny he had taken in and still had these books. He advised that they were in a safe place but that they would be open for inspection when he returned to Louisiana. THARPE advised that the payroll of the Louisiana Tax Commission amounted to about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year; that the most the Tax Commission could spend under ordinary circumstances would be thirty-five thousand dollars per year; therefore, the payroll was "padded" a great deal and checks were sent to persons who never came down to work; that he knew their names but had never seen any of them.

THARPE advised that the Standard Office and Supply Company, Monroe, Louisiana, furnished all the furniture for the new State offices, which was pro rated to the different offices. That there was not enough money to pay for this out of the legislative appropriation, so each department made up the difference. He advised that he did not know of any irregularities in connection with this. He advised that he understood that ABE SHUSHAN furnished all the window blinds for the State buildings in Louisiana. THARPE advised that he had to pay twenty or thirty dollars for the election of President Roosevelt, which he gave to MR. TUGWELL. He advised that this, however, might have been for the "Paralysis Campaign". He advised that it was rumored that the Louisiana Highway Department paved around the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute at Ruston, Louisiana, in return for a contract by the Office Supply Company to furnish all the furniture for the Polytechnic Institute. He advised that the Office Supply Company was reported to be owned by L. P. ABERNATHY, the Chairman of the Louisiana State Highway Commission. THARPE advised that DAVID M. ELLISON advised him several months ago that he had let a contract for six thousand dollars to GEORGE CALDWELL for CALDWELL to build a house. He advised that he knew the house cost more than six thousand dollars and that he knew there was some irregularity about this before the newspapers came out with all the publicity about the alleged irregularities in Louisiana. THARPE advised that although he understood the State Income Tax Collector was checking on his income he knew they had nothing on him. THARPE advised that it was rumored that CALDWELL BROTHERS and HART had made a statement to the effect that they paid for everything they got from the State, meaning that for the contracts they got from the State it was necessary for them to pay something to one of the State officials. THARPE advised that he believed that D. M. ELLISON and W. A. COOPER influenced R. W. LEONE in dismissing his wife. This was concurred in by MRS. THARPE.

32

He advised that E. A. CONWAY, D. M. ELLISON and R. W. LECHE appeared to be the ring-leaders in Louisiana; that CONWAY was a "gossipy old woman" type of man and knew everything that went on; that CONWAY sponsored ELLISON who was close to the Governor, probably knowing more about the Governor than anyone in the State. THARPE advised that a MR. FAZEL, of Monroe, Louisiana, was the only man to whom independent oil companies could sell natural gas. THARPE advised that he had a gas well around Rodessa, Louisiana, which was closed down by the pro-ration law; that he made a big fuss about this and talked about Governor LECHE trying to cut him out, so believed this might have had something to do with his dismissal. THARPE advised that when he was discharged he requested that he be given a month's salary but found that the State would only give him two weeks. He advised that he would not take this. He advised that at this time he had collected four hundred and six dollars from the employees in his department; that word came to him that J. M. FUSH wanted to see him. THARPE advised that he then made the statement that he would give the four hundred and six dollars to LECHE if LECHE would give him a receipt for it. He advised that LECHE would not give him a receipt and that no one had requested the four hundred and six dollars. THARPE advised that he still had this money and would perhaps have to pay income tax on it; that he would not, however, turn it over without receiving a receipt for it.

THARPE advised that it was rumored that HAMPTON REYNOLDS, the father-in-law of LECHE, has an asphalt company in Alabama from whom the State purchases asphalt for a price from fourteen to sixteen dollars per ton; that this asphalt can be purchased for six dollars a ton on the regular market. He advised that he understood that about forty thousand tons a month were used. THARPE advised that he understood that all the cement used by the State of Louisiana was purchased from one company but that he did not know the name of this company. He advised that when MRS. ROOSEVELT spoke at the Louisiana State University, orders came from LECHE that every State employee was to be present and that they should show unusual enthusiasm. THARPE advised that he was never around when any settlement was made in connection with any graft in the State. THARPE advised that he believed LECHE was a crook and believed that JAMES MONROE SMITH did not tell LECHE anything about his depredations for fear that LECHE would want to get in on it. THARPE advised that he believed that if LECHE knew anything crooked was going on he would not be satisfied unless he could get a part of the graft. THARPE made the statement that he believed Judge DORE of Ville Platte, and Judge J. B. FOURNET, who were on the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University, would not sell out for less than five dollars. THARPE advised that DON WELDON, who was the Editor of the Hammond Progress, the newspaper of Governor LECHE, gave orders around the State; that the orders of WELDON were the same as if they were given by LECHE, particularly in regard to subscriptions to the paper being required of State employees. THARPE was questioned as to the names of any persons he believed might be reliable to contact for information pertaining to irregularities in Louisiana. He advised that he believed A. R. JOHNSON, who was close to the Governor but a high type of man, might give some informa-

tion. He advised that he believed THEO S. LANDRY, the manager of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, was an honorable man, who showed no favoritism, and who might be able to give reliable information.

THARPE advised that shortly after MR. HOOVER and MR. MURPHY were at the Louisiana State University, a picture appeared in the paper showing MR. HOOVER, MR. MURPHY and JAMES MONROE SMITH together. He advised that he jokingly remarked that it looked as though MR. HOOVER and MR. MURPHY were sizing SMITH up for a suit. During the first part of the interview THARPE claimed that he and his wife had been planning a vacation for a long time and so after they were dismissed they decided to take the vacation. THARPE later on in the interview advised that they left Louisiana to keep from being annoyed by numerous reporters and investigators in connection with this investigation. He advised, however, that they had nothing to hide; that neither he nor MRS. THARPE was in any way connected with any of the irregularities in Louisiana.

Both the THARPEs were questioned at length relative to the political organization in the State of Louisiana. They advised that when HUEY LONG was in power he organized the government in such a way that he would have complete control of all departments, and placed his friends and people he could trust in charge of these departments. However, he did run the departments as he saw fit himself. That after LONG'S death his policies were not continued in the way he had started them. During the interview it was determined that MRS. THARPE was thirty-four years of age, and that the THARPEs had been married a year prior to the time of HUEY LONG'S death.

Both MR. and MRS. THARPE denied any knowledge of any Federal violations in connection with irregularities in Louisiana. They denied that they had information relative to the misuse of Federal funds, violations of income tax matters, violations of the misuse of WPA materials and violations which were alleged to have been committed by JAMES MONROE SMITH. The THARPEs advised that they were not connected with any of the State officials in any irregularities, and that they were not afraid of anything that might come up. During this interview they were specifically asked a great many questions concerning Louisiana State officials and WPA irregularities. MRS. THARPE was not very talkative; however, MR. THARPE volunteered information which has been set out in this report. MR. and MRS. THARPE advised that they were returning to Louisiana about August 1, 1939, and would be available in Baton Rouge for interview after that date; that they would be willing to give all the cooperation possible in this case. They advised that although they could not furnish definite or specific information, they believed that R. W. LECHE, D. M. ELLISON, GEORGE CALDWELL and E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, were principally involved in any irregularities in Louisiana.

N. O. #62-978

During the entire interview Attorney NICHOLS did not object to any questions asked the THARPES. He, instead, urged them to answer all questions asked by the writer.

Upon the completion of this investigation a teletype was sent to the New Orleans Office and to the Bureau advising of the information obtained during this interview.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New Orleans, Louisiana**

N.O. FILE NO. 62-972

REPORT MADE AT New Orleans, La.	DATE WHEN MADE July 19, 1939	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE July 11 & 14, 1939	REPORT MADE BY W. W. DUNKIN
TITLE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS		CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, employed by HUEY LONG as Secretary in 1924 and continued in capacity when LONG became Governor of Louisiana. In 1929 was appointed Secretary of State to fill unexpired term and when office was filled by election 1932 was appointed to position of Supervisor of Public Accounts, name of which department changed to Collector of Internal Revenue. This department divided and W. A. COOPER placed in charge auditing department by Governor R. W. LECHE. GROSJEAN believed R. M. ELLISON and COOPER influenced LECHE in dismissing her, but advised LECHE gave no reason. Advised she collected five per cent contribution from employees her department which she submitted to J. M. PUGH, but no information Federal funds involved. Advised H. J. COSTELLO, scout for Washington Merry Go Round, contacted her. Denied making statements about President ROOSEVELT or Attorney General MURPHY which appeared in Merry Go Round column. Has scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Louisiana from beginning HUEY LONG regime and has photostatic copies of original clippings she gave to LONG'S widow after LONG'S death but denied having other documents. Denied any knowledge of Federal violations by State officials and associates, and denied being connected any irregularities. W. A. THARPE, former Secretary Louisiana State Tax Commission, advised collected five per cent contribution employees his department, claiming he gave same to ELLISON. THARPE advised he kept complete accounting these collections but no Federal funds involved. THARPE denied information irregularities Louisiana State University. Believed LECHE,

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 Bureau
5 New Orleans

36

RECORDED 62-32509-216 K1
ACH:LL

August 10, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies each of the following correspondence between Mr. Vincent Moseley, of Opelousas, Louisiana, and the Department, which was referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rens A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated June 1, 1939, to the Attorney General from Mr. Moseley, together with the two newspaper clippings inclosed therewith.

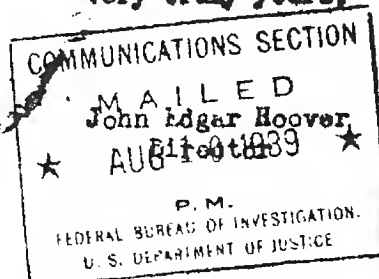
Copy of letter dated June 7, 1939, to Mr. Moseley from Mr. McGuire.

Letter dated July 3, 1939, to Mr. McGuire from Mr. Moseley.

Letter dated July 14, 1939, to Mr. McGuire from Mr. Moseley.

Copy of letter dated July 18, 1939, to Mr. Moseley from Mr. McGuire.

Very truly yours,



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tamm _____

SPORT
37

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Gandy _____
Mr. Hayden _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/10/39
Set. 7, 6.
AC/H

Matthew F. McGuire
Matthew F. McGuire,
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32509-211
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15 1961
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI - NEW YORK
FBI - NEW YORK

June 7, 1939.

Vincent Moseley, Esquire,
Boagni Building,
Opelousas, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Moseley:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 1, addressed to the Attorney General, in which you offer your services without compensation to the Government.

The Attorney General has asked me to thank you for your generous offer but he regrets that there is no suitable opening at this time.

Very truly yours,

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

2-JaH

VINCENT MOSELEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
BOAGH BUILDING
OPELOUSAS, LA.



1 June 1939.

U.S. Attorney General Murphy,
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED

62-32509-216	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
AUG 15	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

Dear Sir:

May I ask for my services, without compensation, to assist in any way possible to make this state of my birth a better place in which to live. I most respectfully cite you to Justice Frankfurter, to whom I earlier directed matter in line with the enclosed editorial. To quote the Justice from the class room - "to be concrete one must be personal etc" - I hope you will pardon the additional inclosure to identify myself to him regardless of how remote the source may be from those of a good office. It may pardon my present environs if he recalls a proposed juvenile bench prepared while practicing in Chattanooga of which he received a copy. Unfortunately, I sought therein to pacify a County Judge of the City of Troy as to promoting the expense of the Court - my sacrifice was consciously made to secure passage of the bill but the Legislature will hindered the job and unconstitutional fragment resulted.

3 ENCL. C

Please be assured of my hearty approval of what you have said but let us have action.

Respectfully,

Vincent Moseley. 40

62-32509-21681

July 18, 1939

Vincent Moseley, Esquire
Boagni Building
Opelousas, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moseley:

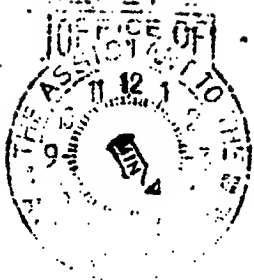
This acknowledges the receipt of your
letter of recent date. Please be assured that
your comments with respect to the subject matter
contained therein have been carefully noted.

Very truly yours,

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

2/yrj
✓



JUL 17 1939 PM

LAW OFFICES
VINCENT MOSELEY
BOAZON BUILDING
OPELOUSAS, LA.

July 14, 1939.

Mr. Mathew F. McGuire, Esq.
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McGuire:

On July 3rd. I directed to you a letter which I that day registered, returned receipt requested. Since receipt signed by you has not reached me and I have not heard from you during the past ten days I should appreciate learning if you received letter mentioned.

Yours very truly,

Vincent Moseley

VM:dbh

Mr. F. M. McGuire has not seen it

RECORDED

62-32509-216X1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
AUG 1 1939	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

42

62-32509-216X1

LAW OFFICES
VINCENT MOSELEY
BOAGNI BUILDING
OPELOUSAS, LA.



3 July 1933

JUL - 6 1933

Mr. Matthew T. McGuire,
Acting Assistant to the Atty. General,
Dept. of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McGuire:

I thank you for your letter of June 7th in reply to my earlier letter to Atty. Gen. Murphy, offering such humble assistance of my services as might be accepted to the end of ridding this state of corruption under the present administration. It seems now from the press that your department is actively interested. In passing, may I call to your attention the present slot machine method of governing this Parish. As you know, slot machines are forbidden in this state, however, in St. Landry Parish they are regularly "hi-jacked" by the collectors of the District Attorney, two of these collectors being Robert Preston Dunbar, an ex meat cutter, & E. H. Dillon, an ex saw filer for Bonnet Blanks Sh. Co., the funds collected probably totaling fifty thousand a year. I understand that Dunbar delivers his collections to Bryan Little, Receiver (by appointment of L. Austin Fontenot, Dist. Atty) of the Parish Trusts Reg. Bd. of Opelousas, where this cash is kept in their vault. If these funds be used for purely political purposes prior to election times it is assumed, as stated some, that our kind of vote in this Parish is purchasable, you will appreciate the meagre opportunity we have here for honest government. May I not ask that you verify through your Department the situation as presented? Frankly, I am "fed-up" with the local condition which probably reflects that of the State as a whole.

My best wishes for your success.

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-32501-216

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 21 1933

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

C
O
P
Y

Law Offices

C
O
P
Y

VINCENT MOSELEY
Boagni Building
Opelousas, La.

July
3 ~~June~~ 1939

Mr. Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

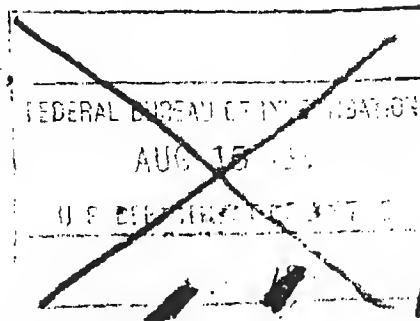
Dear Mr. McGuire:

I thank you for your letter of June 7th in reply to my earlier letter to Attorney General Murphy, offering such humble assistance of my services as might be accepted to the end of ridding this state of corruption under the present administration. It seems now from the press that your department is actively interested. In passing, may I call to your attention the present slot machine method of governing this Parish. As you know, slot machines are forbidden in this State, however, in St. Landry Parish they are regularly "hi-jacked" by the collectors of the District Attorney, two of these collectors being Robert Preston Dunbar, an ex meat cutter, and E. H. Dillon, an ex saw filer for Bomer Blanks Lumber Co., the funds collected probably totaling fifty thousand a year. I understand that Dunbar delivers his collections to Bryan Littell, Receiver (by appointment of L. Austin Fontenot, District Attorney) of the Parish Trust and Savings Bank of Opelousas, where this cash is kept in their vault. If these funds be used for purely political purposes prior to and at election times and it be assumed, as stated to me, that one third of the vote in this Parish is purchaseable, you will appreciate the meagre opportunity we have here for honest government. May I not ask that you verify through your Department the situation as presented? Frankly, I am "fed-up" with the local condition which probably reflects that of the State as a whole.

My best wishes for your success,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Vincent Moseley



copy
(ed)

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-21-39 5 PM ALS

DIRECTOR

MONTE HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD, LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING.
MONTE HART AND JAMES MONROE SMITH INDICTED FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS
TODAY ON FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX DOLLARS SEVEN CENTS MAIL
FRAUD INDICTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF BIENVILLE HOTEL. HART RELEASED
ON FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND TODAY. REQUESTS IN PETITION OF JAMES MONROE
SMITH TO HAVE HABEAS CORPUS AD PROSEQUENDUM MODIFIED DENIED BY JUDGE BORAH
TODAY. USA NEW ORLEANS CONTEMPLATING MAIL FRAUD INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION
WITH REISSUE OF ~~NEW~~ ORLEANS LEVEE BOARD BONDS, WHEREIN IT IS ALLEGED THAT
CONTRACT WAS LET TO NEWMAN HARRIS COMPANY, NEW ORLEANS BROKERS, TO REISSUE
BONDS WHICH CONTRACT WAS SUBLET TO PARTNERSHIP COMPOSED OF NORVIN HARRIS,
ABE SHUSHAN, ROBERT NEWMAN AND HENRY J. MILLER. THE REISSUED BONDS MATURING FIVE
YEARS EARLIER THAN OLD BONDS PURPORTEDLY SAVING LEVEE BOARD ONE HUNDRED
NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS. PARTNERS ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FOUR HUNDRED FORTY ONE
THOUSAND DOLLARS COMMISSION ON BOND TRANSACTIONS. VOLUNTARY COMMITTEES OF
CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA REPORTED MEETING THROUGHOUT STATE AND DEMANDING IM-
PARTIAL PROBE BY STATE OFFICIALS OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN LOUISIANA. JOE
BATES, CHIEF OF POLICE, BATON ROUGE, DISCHARGED TODAY.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

10	210
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
AUG 7 1939	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
WOLSON	

45

ACH:LL

August 16, 1939

62-32509 ~~154, 157, 208, 209, 210, 213, 214, 215, and 216.~~

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Vioeca, New Orleans:

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 13, 1939, together with its inclosure, from "A New Orleans Schoolgirl."

Letter dated at Crowley, Louisiana, July 18, 1939, from Frank W. Atwood.

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 10, 1939, together with newspaper editorial entitled "Darest Thou Then."

Anonymous letter on letterhead of Hotel Gardner, Shreveport, Louisiana, received in Office of the Attorney General on July 21, 1939, from "American."

Anonymous letter postmarked at New Orleans, July 11, 1939, beginning "Harry Jacobs, Levee Board Engineer 1937-38."

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, June 23, 1939, beginning "Congratulations on your desire to investigate."

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

★ AUG 17 1939 ★

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

5/11
46

SAC
New Orleans

August 16, 1939

Letter dated at Winnfield, Louisiana, July 29, 1939,
from B. W. Bailey.

Anonymous letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana,
July 16, 1939, from "American."

Letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18,
1939, from Mrs. William A. West, Jr.

Letter dated at New York City, July 18, 1939, from
J. C. Corbin.

Letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18, 1939,
from L. J. Raphael, Sr., together with its inclosure.

The letters from Mr. Atwood, Mr. Bailey, Mrs. West,
Mr. Corbin, and Mr. Raphael have not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

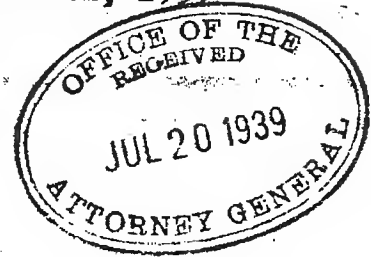
ENCLOSURE

62-32509-216X1

ENCLOSURE

48

New Orleans, La.,
July 18th, 1939



Hon. Frank Murphy,
United States Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General;

I am enclosing a copy of letter written you on June 12th.

RECORDED & INDEXED

At that time I deemed it not advisable to sign this letter, but developments in Louisiana to-day seems to indicate that you mean business.

Now, Mr. Murphy, you as head of the Department of Justice in United States have a very difficult problem on your hand with the Louisiana Politicians.

As an American I understand that the Constitution of this Country guarantees me Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness within any state of the Union. But in Louisiana unless you are on good terms with the Politicians you are denied your Constitutional Rights.

I am the father of nine children and that is my chief reason for taking such an interest in the future of Louisiana.

Hoping that you will be guided by God's Will, I am

Yours truly,

L. J. Raphael, Sr.
224 S. Alexander St
New Orleans
La

1 ENCL 0

5

8/16/39
Sel. N.C.

ACH

44

New Orleans, La.,
June 12th, 1939

Hon. Frank Murphy,
United States Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General;

The writer of this letter is very amused at the publicity given on your recent visit to Louisiana.

I have been following up your records as Governor of the State of Michigan and was very much impressed with your honesty and sincerity of purpose, that is the reason that I am taking the liberty to write you on one of the most important questions in Louisiana to-day.

We, the Honest People of Louisiana, have no voice in the selections of our Candidates, they let us have a so-called election and the man of the street to-day in Louisiana knows that our so-called election is nothing more than a fake. As the present clique of Political Thieves in Louisiana cannot afford to give up their office, because if any fair investigation in Louisiana is held it will mean the complete clique (with few exceptions) into the United States Penitentiary.

I am enclosing numerous clippings from the New Orleans States (one of our most reputable papers) some of these pertaining to you, Mr. Murphy, and in fact invites your investigation of affairs in our fair State.

In one of your addresses in Louisiana you mentioned that the Federal Government will strike hard at gambling, vice and recattering wherever same is found.

For your information, Mr. Murphy, I will site you several well known facts as they exist in Louisiana to-day. We will take first the W.P.A. for one instance that I know of in the Parish of St. Tammany one of The Governor's Henchman a (Mr. Gelbach or Helbach) an ex-bootlegger and also suspected in one of the recent murders during the prohibition era here. I understand from very reliable sources that the Negro Laborers on the W.P.A have to pay this man so much per week to hold the job, of course you will think this accusation terrible, but that is a small graft compared to the graft of Governor Leche and His political clique who forced State employees to pay for ten and fifteen subscriptions to their fake paper called the Progress, and also making every State employee pay them 5% to hold their position, they do not even exempt the employees of our Charity Hospital in New Orleans, they go so far as to include the Garbage Man who collects garbage cans early in the morning on their lists of forced contributions and subscriptions to their fake papers. No one can do business with the State unless they advertize in this fake paper.

At one of the so-called Federal Investigations in New Orleans Senator Connally of Texas presiding, Mr. Earl Long at one time one of our Champions for Good Government made the sworn testimony in Federal Court that he did not know how elections were conducted in Mexico or Russia, but he knew quite

50

Mr. Earl Long is a Brother to the late Senator Huey P. Long. The late Huey P. Long being responsible for all the graft and corruption that is existing in Louisiana today.

With the exception of his brother Earl, the entire political clique in charge of Louisiana to-day are all died in the wool Huey P. Long men they lived on Graft and thrived on graft all their lives.

To give you a fair example of the wretched conditions that the people are forced to live under in this State. Some years back when Huey Long was at the zenith of his power he had men assaulted within our Legislative Hall when our Legislature was in session in Baton Rouge. A Mr. Boudreaux had his skull fractured by one of Long's Henchman and State employee. Hon. Francis Williams was assaulted in the Legislative Hall at Baton Rouge by one of Huey Longs Henchmans and Huey gave him (his hired man) hell because he did not do a better job of it. Earl Long knows this and was one of the chief causes of him opposing the policy of Huey Long and his clique. In further relating to the attack on Francis Williams this man was tried in the District Court of Baton Rouge for assault and found guilty as charged and steps proudly forward with a pardon signed by the late Governor Allen, this pardon being written and signed before the man was even tried. United States Post Master General Farley knows Mr. Francis Williams personally and these facts can be proven upon investigations.

As for gambling and slot machines in Louisiana they are found everywhere and are controlled by the politicians of this State, no competitors are allowed to operate. The Race Track of New Orleans is owned by this political clique notwithstanding the fact that we have a Law on the Status Books prohibiting book making on Race Horses, there are at present over one thousand of them in operation in the State to-day; but this is not so bad, I have bet on Race Horses myself, but low and behold the politicians of our City and State close these shops during the racing season in New Orleans during the three months that they operate here permitting them to operate and accept bets nine months in the year while races are conducted out of this State. The reason for this is they will not have any competition and during the three months that the small bookies are closed most of them get on our un-employment list. The politicians now own and operate the Base Ball game here, and force state and city employees to purchase tickets on the Opening Day. No fooling, they actually compell them to buy or else.

As for the Federal Court the People of Louisiana are also losing faith. At one time we all had re-course to that Honorable Court. Take for instance the Trial of Abraham Shushan, this man admitted under Cross Examination to receiving over Four Hundred and Twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$428,000) graft on the excavating and foundation in the construction of the SHUSHAN AIRPORT. A picked or fixed Jury here found him not guilty. Upon investigating from the Hon. Judge W.H. Barrett United States Judge of Augusta Ga. he can enlighten you more through on this case. Just imagine a blow like this on a community of FREE BORN AMERICANS who expected to see SHUSHAN behind the Bars of Justice where he rightfully belongs, now what happens. United States Attorney here being forced to drop cases pending against SEYOUR WEISS, JULES FISHER, JIMMY NOE and other higher ups in charge of Louisiana at that time. 51

Now you may wonder to yourself why a citizen of United States born

in the sixth congressional disteict of Louisiana was shot on his way home after one of his Political meetings. The writer of this letter listening on the radio a few nights after this had happen was amazed to hear the Governor of our State ridicule Mr. Morrison and in fact made the bold assertion that he shot himself and put a little tomato catsup to make it look good, not withstanding the fact that said Mr. Morrison was treated at the Touro Infirmary of New Orleans for this wound in the arm.

I could go on citing instances after instances of such assaults in Louisiana and nothing has been done. Conditions like this breeds disrespect of the Law and gives even good TRUE BLOODED AMERICANS Communistic ideas. Now, being raised a Catholic, and believing in the Teachings of my Church, I deem it my duty to write you about these facts as these politicians in Louisiana are so shrewd they have even decieved our Clergy. I would like to sign this letter, but of fear of reprisals against me and my family I will have to let this letter go to you unsigned, but in the event you will do your duty as Attorney General of the United States and have an open investigation into the affairs of this State, I will then make myself known to you, as the situation now stands the next election in this State no matter who wins THE PEOPLE LOOSE.

AN AMERICAN

P.S. If the Oil situation in Louisiana is investigated it will make the Tea Pot Dome scandal look like a grain of sand on the Rocky Mountains. This industry is controlled by the Politicians too. Three years back Leche was an UNKNOWN and had NO MEANS at all, TO-DAY HE IS A

MILLIONAIRE

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ENCLOSED

July - 18 - 39
This letter written by L. J. Raphael, Sr.
New Orleans La
(224 - S. Alexander St.)

62-32507-215X

August 11, 1939

ACH:LL

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

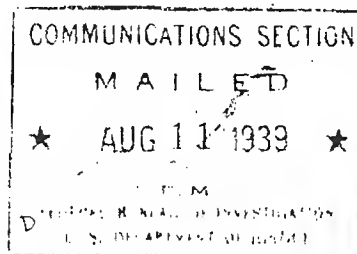
There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 22, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General by an anonymous individual who signs himself "A. Wellisher in the interest of Justice," together with two photostatic copies of the newspaper clippings forwarded therewith, the letter and its inclosures having been referred to the bureau by the Department. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Gene A. Vlosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

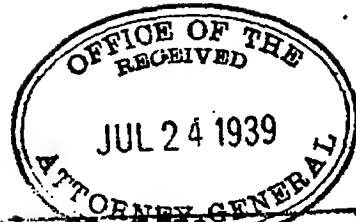
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Smith _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



53



New Orleans, La., July 23, 1939.

Honorable Frank Murphy,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-38509-215
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 15 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Sir:

All independent Democrats, interested in honest governmental institutions and the integrity of the Judiciary and the Department of Justice, were greatly encouraged by your two recent addresses, one advocating a merit system and condemning the "spoils system", and the other emphasizing the sacredness of the Judiciary and the law enforcement machinery of the Federal Government, and the necessity for maintaining its integrity and the public respect for it, if democratic institutions are to survive. I note recently, however, that in discussing the Louisiana situation, you stated that you had every confidence in Mr. Viosca, the local District Attorney. You are a busy man and it is impossible for you to keep informed with regard to local Federal officials all over the United States. In fairness to you, and in order that you may not be deceived, I am enclosing for your information various clippings with reference to the dismissal, several years ago, by the Federal Government of the indictments against various political leaders of the Long machine, who had been indicted for income tax frauds, many of whom have been indicted in connection with the present investigation.

As a matter of history, when Senator Long and his local machine were making vicious attacks on President Roosevelt, and a pro-Roosevelt Faction was organized in Louisiana to combat the local

54

Honorable Frank Murphy - #2.

7/22/39.

machine, Mr. René Viosca was appointed by President Roosevelt as United States Attorney on the suggestion of the Anti-Long leaders (including J. Y. Sanders, his law partner), on the theory that he was opposed to what the National Administration then considered the local corruption of the Long machine, and could be relied upon to carry on the Federal investigation and prosecutions relentlessly and fearlessly. Senator Long attacked Mr. Viosca's honesty and integrity on the floor of the United States Senate, and succeeded in blocking his confirmation by the Senate. Mr. Viosca was then appointed as Acting United States Attorney by the local United States Judge, pending the filling of the vacancy by Presidential appointment. The local Federal Grand Jury returned the indictments in question during the period that Mr. Viosca was acting as United States Attorney, and while Long was living, and before the National Administration and the Long machine had arranged the now famous "peace pact." After Mr. Long's death and the defeat of the pro-Roosevelt faction in the State election, the local political leaders dined at the White House, according to Associated Press reports, with the President, Attorney General Cummings and Mr. Farley, and after a conference, a "peace pact" was announced. Shortly thereafter, the papers reported the resignation of various members of the pro-Roosevelt faction holding jobs, and these jobs were then filled by the Long machine. Mr. Viosca, evidently a party to and sympathetic with the announced "peace pact," appointed two Assistant United States Attorneys prominently connected with the Long machine, and shortly thereafter, Mr. Viosca dismissed the various cases, with the statement that the cases were "weak." Attorney

55

Honorable Frank Murphy, - #3.

7/22/39.

General Cummings announced that he approved of Mr. Viosca's action. These were the same indictments which were brought by a courageous Federal Grand Jury with Mr. Viosca and several Assistant United States Attorneys General sitting in during the period when the Long machine was attacking Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Seymour Weiss, whose indictment was dismissed, later headed the Louisiana delegation to the Democratic National Convention, with the announcement that it would support President Roosevelt.

Following the events I have outlined Mr. Roosevelt again designated Mr. Viosca as United States Attorney, and sent his name to the Senate, and although his appointment had been previously blocked by the Long machine, he was confirmed, this time with the unqualified endorsement of both Louisiana Senators, who were prominent members of the Long political machine.

The circumstances are such that it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Department of Justice was prostituted by Mr. Viosca, for political expediency and in order to obtain his appointment, although his original appointment was obtained on the theory of his opposition to conditions existing in this State, and that he could be depended upon to vigorously investigate and prosecute all of the Long machine political wrong-doers.

Even before the instance I have related, Mr. Viosca had held lucrative local attorneyships in Louisiana under succeeding opposing factions, and had demonstrated a marvelous acuteness and ability to change his position at the proper and most expedient time.

You are to be congratulated, therefore, in sending some of your Special Assistants to Louisiana to assist in the pending investiga-

56

Honorable Frank Murphy - #4.

7/22/39.

tion and prosecutions.

I have only briefly summarized the situation. The enclosed clippings give more elaborate details.

Yours very truly,

*I will continue
in the interest of
Justice.*



Honorable Frank Murphy,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.



ENCLOSURE

62-32509-215X

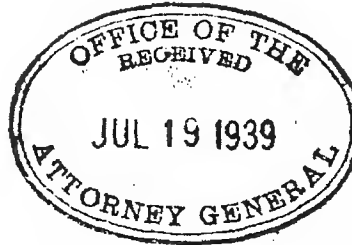
ENCLOSURE

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1964

59

New York, N.Y. 18th, /39

U.S. Attorney General Murphy,
Washington, D.C.



Dear Sir;

here visiting the World Fair, was glad to read in the morning paper that the Federal Grand Jury indicted Seymour Weiss, we in Louisiana have been afraid to utter one word of protest against this Gang of scoundrels for fear of being bodily injured.

The Government should also get after Geo. Dansiger, ---a Negro partner of Mayor Maestri who conducts the numbers games, also the Mayor Maestri, who was never elected by the people, who owns two hundred pieces of property, fifty per cent of which are occupied by whoars, and he pays no tax on this property.

You will have to have some clever men stay in Louisiana sometime to get the low down on this gang.

What Louisiana needs is Voting Machines, so the decent respectable people can run for office, knowing that the votes will be counted in an honest manner.

Yours truly,
J.C. Corbin,

8/16/39
L. C.
ACH

1ct.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-3257-215
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

60

62-32509-214

ACH:AI

August 2, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Louisiana State Officials
Information Concerning

Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge recently submitted to our New Orleans Office an anonymous communication received by him, which, because of the information contained therein, and at the suggestion of Mr. Rogge, is quoted below:

"CHRISTENBERRY, HERBERT W.

"Assistant United States Attorney
New Orleans, La.

"His father was a letter carrier, in the employ of the N. O. Postal service; educated in public schools of N. O. (No college training) Worked as a youth for J. E. Newman and Co. New Orleans brokers, and at one time worked for them in New York. On his return (about 1922 or 1923)-he is estimated to be about 37 years of age--while working in N. O. with his brother, Earl J. Christenberry, in the public multigraphing and envelope addressing business--studied law at Loyola University, finishing his course about 1926 when he was admitted to the bar.

Mr. Tolson	"Practiced with indifferent success, and his brother, Earl J. Christenberry
Mr. Nathan	having become Secretary to Senator Long (about 1931) he was given some
Mr. E. A. Tamm	small attorneyship under the State of Louisiana. No real duties to be
Mr. Clegg	performed, just a political sinecure.
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	"Took an active interest in Long's campaigns, and on the death of Long
Mr. Glavin	both Herbert and his brother continued with the Leche machine. In 1935
Mr. Crowl	he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney under Charles A. Byrne
Mr. Harbo	District of Orleans Parish--Byrne being a political underling of Long's
Mr. Lester	who was illegally appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation
Mr. Lawler	of Dist. Atty. Stanley who resigned because Long's controlled Legislature
Mr. Quinn	took from him power to appoint his Assistants and office force. The law
Mr. Nease	provided that an election should be held to fill this vacancy, but the
Mr. Tamm	law was ignored.
Miss Gandy	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

E. J. [Signature]

AC

61

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

Memorandum for the
Attorney General

August 2, 1938

"Remained under Byrnes until a little more than a year ago (about 1936) when he was appointed an Assistant U. S. Attorney, when Viosca gave all patronage of his office to the State Machine, in return for the promised support by the machine of his candidacy for the new Federal Judgeship.

"He (Christenberry) has no ability whatever, and boasts of his loyalty to the State Machine, even having gone so far as to refuse to endorse Viosca's candidacy for the Federal Judgeship, saying 'it might embarrass me with my party, as I don't know what they will do'. Had a bad reputation in the State Court, as it was rumored he was grafting. I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him \$100 to nolle prosecute a case in his Section of the Criminal District Court, he would send the prisoner (a negro) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another Section had been nolle prosecuted because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would get his, too. This man and wife, who are personally known to me, will not make a statement to this effect in writing, although they told it to me, personally, fearing persecution by the State machine.

"I have had no contact with him since his becoming an Assistant U. S. Atty. but it is believed he is pursuing the same tactics there. It is rumored in N. O. that he nightly reports the doings of the Grand Jury, and the facts obtained in his investigations outside of the jury room, to Masstri. The public has no confidence in him in this investigation, one citizen stating it was like assigning the fox to investigate the disappearance of the chickens from the hen roost, when the fox turns up with a mouth full of feathers.

"J. SKELLY WRIGHT

"Assistant United States Attorney

"Out of law school not more than six years (Loyola University). About 28 years of age, and a nephew of City Commissioner Joseph Patrick Skelly whose reputation and grafting propensities (so reputed) have been covered in the report on gambling. He is an unknown, has no particularly ability and owes his appointment to the sell out by Viosca to the State Machine when they promised him a Federal Judgeship. Viosca turned out four assistants (anti State machine) when

62

Memorandum for the
Attorney General

- 3 -

August 2, 1939

He switched his politics, and appointed four state machine men. It is believed he daily reports his facts to Maestri and his uncle, Joseph P. Skelly. He also refused to endorse Viosca's candidacy for Federal Judgeship, saying, like Christenberry, he would first have to find out where the Leche machine stood. His mother, who is a sister of Joseph P. Skelly, is a ward captain or leader in one of the uptown wards, and is on the payroll. All the family of the Skellys are on the payroll.

HILLARY J. GAUDIN
Assistant United States Attorney

Out of law school about ten years. Holds a BA and LLB from Loyola University, of which college his brother, Father Gaudin, a Jesuit Priest, is President. I know nothing definite against his integrity and as far as grafting is concerned, though a local Attorney told me that since becoming an Assistant U. S. Attorney he told a prisoner, charged with a narcotic violation that if he, the prisoner, secured the services of his, Gaudin's brother (Felix J. Gaudin, Atty. in N. O.) that he would not be indicted, which the prisoner wisely did, and was not indicted. The fee paid was reported to be \$750. Whether there was a split or not, I would not say. He was one of the administration's men who went in with the Viosca sell out, and later refused to endorse Viosca for the Federal Judgeship unless it was O. K. with the Administration. Prior to his appointment, he did not actively practice law here, working for the Pan Am Oil Co., and holding down a job on the dock board at \$150 a month, merely receiving his check and cashing it, doing no work for it at all, as he was employed as a salesman by the oil company and it took up all of his time. It is believed he daily reports the progress of the investigation to Maestri. A witness recently summoned said he was afraid to tell any of the Assistants (or even Viosca) all he knew, as they would carry it, and the crowd in Baton Rouge might have him 'knocked off'.

Mr. Rogge indicated he was perturbed by the following sentence appearing in Paragraph 5: "I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him \$100 to nolle prosecute a case in his Section of the Criminal District

62

Memorandum for the
Attorney General

- 4 -

August 2, 1939

Court, he would send the prisoner (a Negro) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another Section had been nolle prossed because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would get his, too," but was undetermined as to just what action would be taken, however believing that the communication should be passed on to you.

Mr. Rogge also indicated he intended to use Assistant United States Attorney Herbert W. Christenberry in the trials in the cases in connection with this investigation.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

64

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 29, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

*anemo a.g.
8/2 act*

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE, head of the criminal division of the Department of Justice, who is presently in New Orleans, submitted the following anonymous communication received by him in New Orleans:

CHRISTENBERRY HERBERT W.

Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, La.

His father was a letter carrier, in the employ of the N. O. Postal service; educated in the public schools of N. O. (No college training) Worked as a youth for J. K. Newman and Co. New Orleans brokers, and at one time worked for them in New York. On his return (about 1922 or 1923)-he is estimated to be about 37 years of age--while working in N. O. with his brother, Earl J. Christenberry, in the public multigraphing and envelope addressing business--studied law at Loyala University, finishing his course about 1926 when he was admitted to the bar.

Practiced with indifferent success, and his brother, Earl J. Christenberry having become Secretary to Senator Long (about 1931) he was given some small attorneyship under the State of Louisiana. No real duties to be performed, just a political sinecure.

Took an active interest in Long's campaigns, and on the death of Long both Herbert and his brother continued with the Leche machine. In 1935 he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney under Charles A. Byrne, District of Orleans Parish--

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

11-1-39 - 5-4-39 - 1X

162-32541-1
Culm
65

Director

-2-

7-29-39

Byrnes being a political underling of Long's who was illegally appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dist. Atty Stanley who resigned because Long's controlled Legislature took from him power to appoint his Assistants and office force. The law provided that an election should be held to fill this vacancy, but the law was ignored.

Remained under Byrnes until a little more than a year ago (about 1938) when he was appointed an Assistant U. S. Attorney when Viosca gave all patronage of his office to the State Machine, in return for the promised support by the machine of his candidacy for the new Federal Judgeship.

He (Christenberry) has no ability whatever, and boasts of his loyalty to the State machine, even having gone so far as to refuse to endorse Viosca's candidacy for the Federal Judgeship, saying 'it might embarrass me with my party, as I don't know what they will do'. Had a bad reputation in the State Court, as it was rumored he was grafting. I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him \$100 to nolle prosecute a case in his Section of the Criminal District Court, he would send the prisoner (a negro) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another Section had been nolle prosecuted because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would get his, too. This man and wife, who are personally known to me, will not make a statement to this effect in writing, although they told it to me, personally, fearing persecution by the State machine.

I have had no contact with him since his becoming an Assistant U. S. Atty- but it is believed he is pursuing the same tactics there. It is rumored in N. O. that he nightly reports the doings of the Grand Jury, and the facts obtained in his investigations outside of the jury room, to Maestri. The public has no confidence in him in this investigation, one citizen stating it was like assigning the fox to investigate the disappearance of the chickens from the hen roost, when the fox turns up with a mouth full of feathers.

J. SKELLY WRIGHT

Assistant United States Attorney

out of law school not more than six years (Loyola University). About 28 years of age, and a nephew of City Commissioner Joseph Patrick Skelly whose reputation and grafting propensities (so

66

Director

-3-

7-29-39

reputed) have been covered in the report on gambling. He is an unknown, has no particularly ability and owes his appointment to the sell out by Viosca to the State machine when they promised him a Federal Judgeship. Viosca turned out four assistants (anti State machine) when he switched his politics, and appointed four state machine men. It is believe he daily reports his facts to Maestri and his uncle, Joseph P. Skelly. He also refused to endorse Viosca's candidacy for Federal Judgeship, saying, like Christenberry, he would first have to find out where the Leche machine stood. His mother, who is a sister of Joseph P. Skelly, is a ward captain or leader in one of the uptown wards, and is on the payroll. All the family of the Skelly's are on the payroll.

HILLARY J. GAUDIN

Assistant United States Attorney

out of law school about ten years. Holds a BA and LLB from Loyala University, of which college is brother, Father Gaudin, a Jesuit Priest, is President. I know nothing definite against his integrity and as far as grafting is concerned, though a local Attorney told me that since becoming an Assistant U. S. Attorney he told a prisoner, charged with a narcotic violation that if he, the prisoner, secured the services of his, Gaudin's brother (Felix J. Gaudin, Atty. in N. O.) that he would not be indicted, which the prisoner wisely did, and was not indicted. The fee paid was reported to be \$750. Whether there was a split or not, I would not say. He was one of the administration's men who went in with the Viosca sell out, and later refused to endorse Viosca for the Federal Judgeship unless it was O. K. with the Administration. Prior to his appointment, he did not actively practice law here, working for the Pan Am Oil Co., and holding down a job on the dock board at \$150 a month, merely receiving his check and cashing it, doing no work for it at all, as he was employed as a salesman by the oil company and it took up all of his time. It is believed he daily reports the progress of the investigation to Maestri. A witness recently summoned said he was afraid to tell any of the Assistants (or even Viosca) all he knew, as they would carry it, and the crowd in Baton Rouge might have him 'knocked off'.

Mr. ROGGE advised that with reference to Paragraph 5 of the letter, he was somewhat perturbed by the following sentence: "I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him \$100 to nolle prosecute a case in his Section of the Criminal District Court,

61

Director

-4-

7-29-39

he would send the prisoner (a negro) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another Section had been nolle prosequed because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would get his, too".

Mr. ROGGE advised that he was undetermined as to just what he would do with reference to the sentence quoted, that he believed this anonymous communication should be passed on to the Attorney General. Mr. ROGGE advised that he intends using Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY in the trials in the cases in connection with this investigation which are presently pending in New Orleans.

It is requested that copies of the anonymous communication received by Mr. ROGGE be forwarded to the Attorney General, in accordance with Mr. ROGGE's request, if it is agreeable to the Bureau to do.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett
B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

62-978
CWD:EFK

68

69

100-2-5-1-214

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 4 1939

RECORDED & INDEXED

8/16/39
J. M. G.
ACH

Mr. C. W. G.

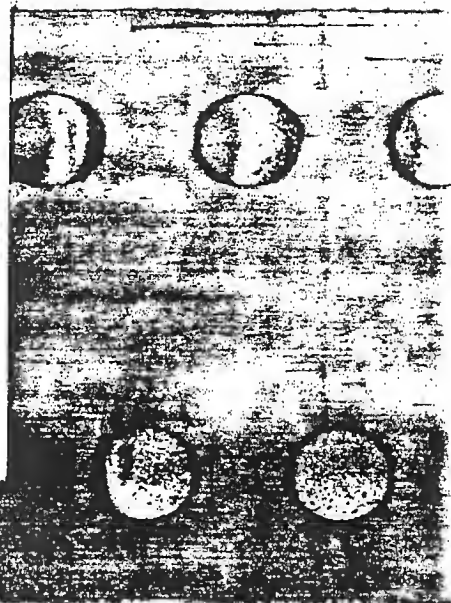
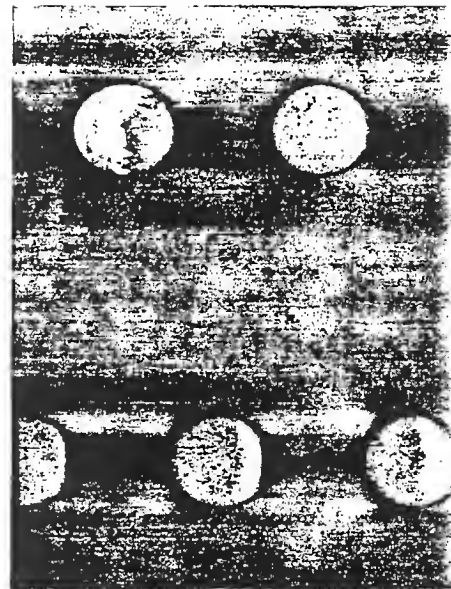
Honorable Frank Murphy
Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir,
I join the thousands of residents of Louisiana who ask that you push the investigation of corruption in the state of Louisiana.
Sincerely,

July 18, 1939.



1421 OCTAVIA STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

MRS. WILLIAM A. ST. JR.



RECEIVED
JUL 18 1939
ATTORNEY GENERAL

7/16-27

Dear Sir

Long is a puppet in the hands of Marster and we do his bidding on account of the 75000 illegal votes Marster has for years earned in the poll books in N.P. These votes have been used for years (illegally) in state and national elections.

It is now being prepared that a state investigation of the all racket be made to if possible deter you from going forward. When Marster took the bonds and Long's trust box he and Long used to hide Long's capital it is understood that he fled to N.Y. and either bought in with Ralph Ritz the bill men in his company or has the money and bonds in some trust box N.Y.

The loot had, among the other things and cash \$50000 of first mortgage bonds of Missouri Notes much of this is known by Allen Grosvenor Farmer master of Huey Long, and the leader of various political racketeers under him.

L.P. abnormally chairman of the highway body has for years been receiving 20 cents per yd on all sand and gravel sold to the state on all state and federal aid jobs including N.P.A. The Lyppard Hill Co. of Dallas Texas owned the most of it but their books may be covered.

Geology Hall on S.D. Campus earned \$200000 N.P.A. and the Standard Supply & in which abnormally has a 7% interest furnished all the maps, globe state bonds and technical equipment at exorbitant prices without competition.

The whole mess is rotten to the core your committee to Long and you alone can work it out. I imagine that 100000 people are praying for you and all bless you -

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-32509-213
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1939

8/16/39 - Let. N.C. - ACH

9-12-39

9

Please, while you're about the business of washing Louisiana's face with lye concentrate, don't overlook the Sanderson-DeGeneres clique. Scrub the floors and walls of the Shreveport Charity Hospital. Find out why Sanderson is permitted to haul hundreds of dollars worth of food away from the hospital for the private use of his friends, openly, and without so much as a "By your leave"

Please, help clean up this end of the state as well as the southern rim.

Yours for a real clean-up
A Citizen

8/16/35

Let. N.C.

ACH

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-33509-212
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

71